FROM THE CREATOR OF *GUNSMITH CATS*

KENICHI SONODA

CANNON GOD EXAXXION

STAGE 1

CANNON GOD EXAXXION

STORY AND ART BY

KENICHI SONODA

TRANSLATION BY

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LETTERING AND TOUCH-UP

SUSIE LEE & PC ORZ

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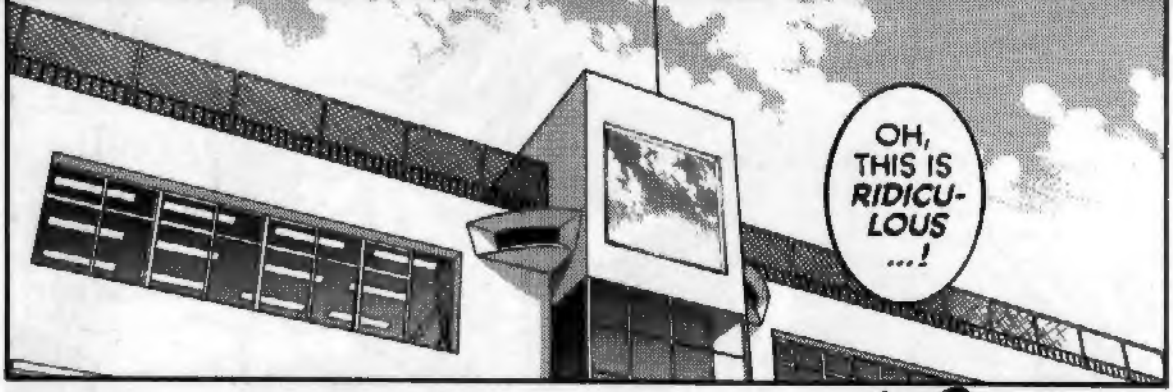
STAGE 1

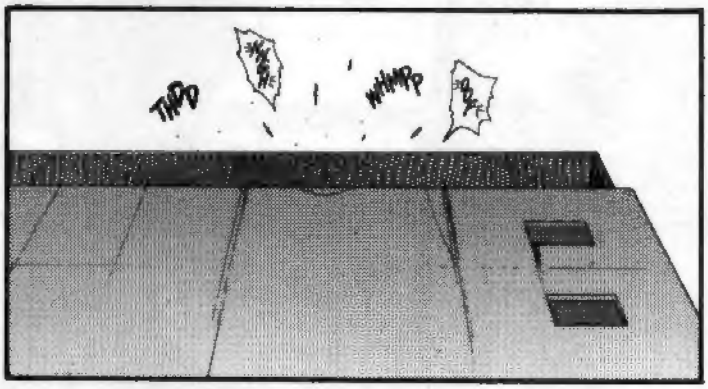
DARK HORSE COMICS®


OH, THIS IS RIDICU-LOUS ...!

WHERE DID HE GO NOW?
CUTTING CLASS AGAIN ...?

FWAPP

OH ...!


THPP
WHMPP

A FIGHT ...?
IT'S GOTTA BE "GUN" ...!

WHOKK
HEY... WHAT'S *WRONG,* YA BIG, TOUGH *SENIORS?*
WEREN'T YA GONNA *MAKE* ME SIGN UP FOR YOUR CLUB?
WEREN'T YA GONNA *BEAT* SOME *RESPECT* INTO ME? WASN'T *THAT* THE PLAN?
HRKKE
D-DAMN IT, *HOICHI...*

YOU'RE GOOD ENOUGH TO MAKE THE *NATIONALS!* :KOFF: WHY WON'T YOU JOIN OUR *KARATE* CLUB OR THE *BOXING* TEAM...?
WAY TOO BORING.
RMBB
RMBB
AND *BESIDES*...
...YOU GUYS SAID MY *GRANDPA* WAS A *"MAD SCIENTIST"* AND A *"NUT CASE"*... REMEMBER?
RMBB
RMBB
NO *WAY* I'M HANGING OUT WITH *YOU* LOSERS!
SPECIAL PRIZES AVAILABLE NOW!
COOL AND DRY!
SHIT, MAN THE WORLD'S FULL OF *CFO'S** LIKE THE ONE BEHIND YOU...
...BUT THAT OLD MAN IS *STILL* WRITING ALL THAT BULLSHIT ABOUT *"SINISTER INVADERS"...!*

CFO: *COMMERCIAL* ***F****LYING* ***O****BJECT. In this world,* ***UFO's*** *(in the sense of "alien spacecraft" are no longer* ***"unidentified,"*** *but expressions derived from this now-obsolete term remain commonplace.*

WHOO
HOICHI KANO! STOP THAT RIGHT NOW, OR I'LL TRANSMIT THIS VIDFILE TO THE PRINCIPAL!
AKANE ...?
YOU NEVER CHANGE, GUN*...YOU STILL LOSE IT THE MOMENT ANYONE BADMOUTHS YOUR GRAND-FATHER!
AS A MEMBER OF THE MEDIA CLUB, I'D LOVE TO DO AN INTERVIEW WITH HIM.
COULD YOU ARRANGE IT?

*Akane's "Gun" nickname for Hoichi refers to the fact that the

FORGET IT! YOU JUST WANT TO RIDICULE HIM IN THAT "TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST CONTACT" ARTICLE YOU'RE WORKING ON...!
WRONG. INTERVIEW FIRST, CONCLUSIONS LATER.
GOOD JOURNALISTS LET THE REPORTING SHAPE THE STORY.

YEAH, RIGHT. I'M OUTTA HERE.
H-HEY...! YOU'RE NOT SKIPPING SCHOOL AGAIN, ARE YOU...?

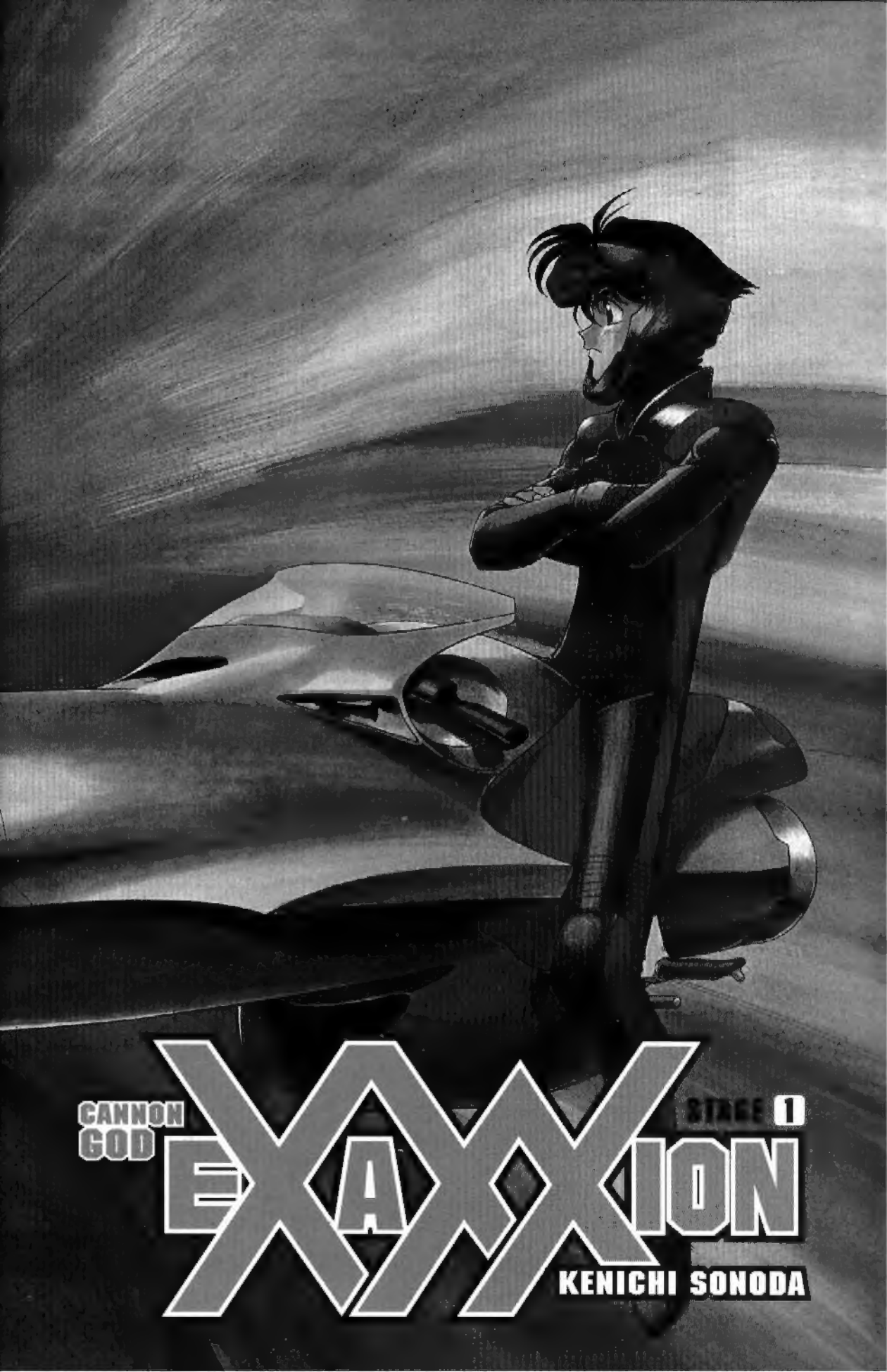
YOU CAN'T KEEP DOING THIS, GUN!
AT THIS RATE, YOU WON'T HAVE ENOUGH CREDITS TO--

SO WHY AREN'T YOU IN CLASS?
'CAUSE I'M AN HONORS STUDENT, SILLY! I COULD GRADUATE TOMORROW.

I'VE GOT THE WHOLE WEEK OFF TO COVER THE BIG EVENT.
WELL, LAH-DEE-DAH, LITTLE MISS EINSTEIN. BUT YOU WON'T CATCH ME IN A CLASS TAUGHT BY AN ALIEN... NO WAY!

REALLY...? BUT HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THAT A NEW TRANSFER STUDENT IS ARRIVING TODAY...?

YEAH. SO?
I HEAR SHE'S SUPER HOT...


CANNON GOD
EXAXXION
STAGE 1
KENICHI SONODA

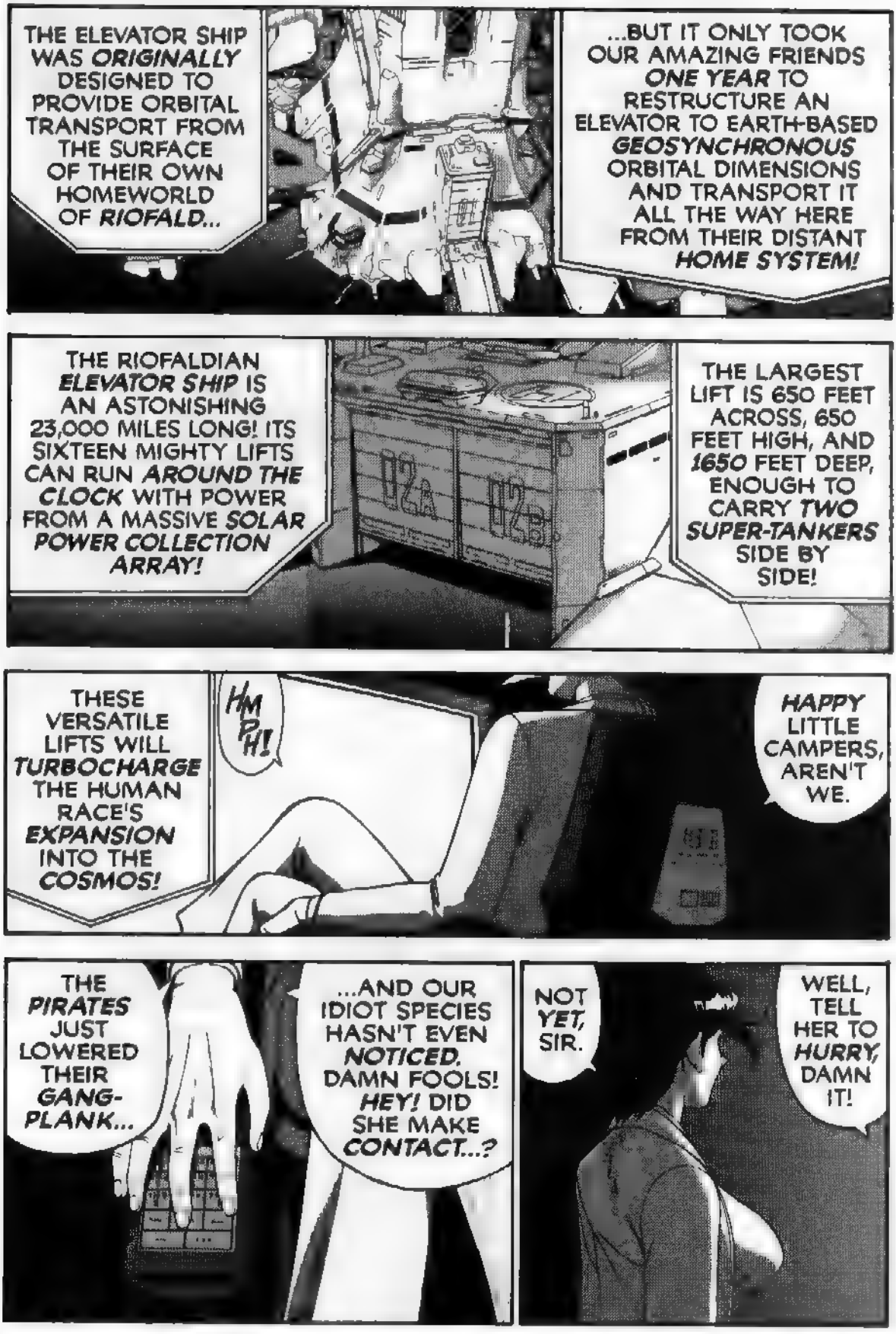
ISAKA, YOU CAN USE THAT EMPTY DESK OVER--
EXCUSE ME, MISS KIN'BA ...?
ISN'T HOICHI KANO HERE TODAY ...?
OH ...!
WELL... WE HAVE A LITTLE PROBLEM WITH HOICHI...
YO, THE DUDE HATES ALIENS, SEE?
SO HE'S BOYCOTTING MISS KIN'BA'S CLASSES.
KENJI MURATA! YOU BE QUIET!
HEY, IT'S TRUE, AIN'T IT?
UM...SO, ARE YOU AND HOICHI ACQUAINTED?
I TRANSFERRED HERE JUST TO BE WITH HIM!
OH, YES INDEED!

AND SO, CLASS...
...TODAY I'M PLEASED TO INTRODUCE A WONDERFUL NEW FRIEND FOR YOU ALL!
HI! ♥
I'M ISAKA MINAGATA, AND I'M SO HAPPY TO MEET YOU ALL!
WHOA ...!
J-JEEZ ...!
GASP!
ULP
OUR NEW FRIEND ISAKA IS THE FIRST STUDENT EVER TO RECEIVE A PERFECT SCORE ON OUR ENTRANCE EXAM.
SO LET'S ALL BE FRIENDLY RIVALS WITH OUR NEW CLASS STAR, SHALL WE?
LOOK AT THEM PUPPIES!
9.5!! MAYBE A PERFECT 10..?
D'YOU THINK SHE MODELS ...?

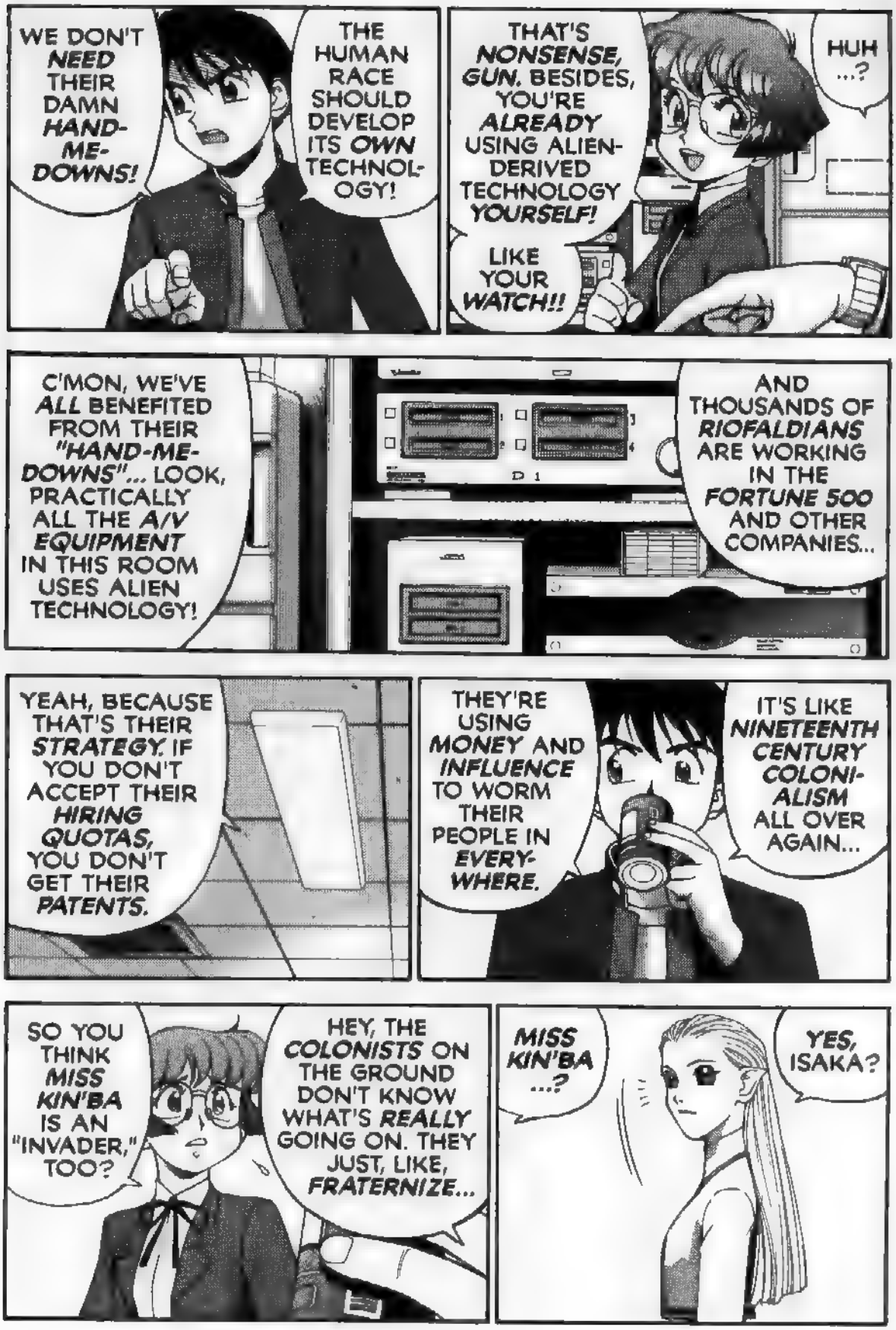
TEE HEE!
LOVER-BOY KANO'S GOT A STEADY ...?
TRUE LOVE?! HOW SWEET!
THIS IS SO NOT FAIR!
WHOA-- WAIT 'TIL AKANE HEARS ABOUT THIS...!
"EVENT COVER-AGE" ...?
GIMME A BREAK.

BUT IT'S THE TECHNOLOGICAL FEAT OF THE CENTURY, GUN! NOT TO MENTION THAT IT COST MORE THAN THE LAST THREE OLYMPICS PUT TOGETHER!
OH, RIGHT. IT'S ALL ONE BIG PIECE OF INVADER PROPA-GANDA.
THERE! THAT'S EXACTLY THE KIND OF CLEAR-CUT OPINION I'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOUR GRAND-FATHER IF YOU CAN--
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN YEARS.
YOU HAVEN'T? WHY NOT?
'CAUSE THE OLD BASTARD IS KICKING BACK ON SOME TROPICAL ISLAND PARADISE, THAT'S WHY. HE SENDS ME EMAIL MAYBE TWICE A YEAR.
REALLY? SO THAT BOOK OF HIS THAT EVERYONE HATED MADE HIM THAT MUCH MONEY?
NAH, IT'S ALL THOSE HIGH-TECH PATENTS OF HIS, Y'KNOW?
HE'S GOT HUNDREDS OF 'EM. HE MUST MAKE LIKE, TEN OR TWENTY MILLION A YEAR.
SO, HE JUST WROTE THIS FOR FUN, THEN...?
SHEESH. YOU ACTUALLY BOUGHT A COPY, HUH?
THE GREAT INVASION
I TOLD YOU, GUN! I'M NOT PRO ALIEN, I'M NOT ANTI ALIEN-- I JUST WANT TO INTERVIEW YOUR GRANDFATHER!
ACTUALLY, HE DOES MAKE A RATHER PERSUASIVE CASE IN HERE...
AUTHOR PROFILE
OH ...!

IT'S TIME FOR THE BROAD-CAST ...!
YOU CAN WATCH IT WITH ME IN THE MEDIA ROOM, IF YOU MUST INSIST ON CUTTING CLASS...!
WHAT, THAT ELEVATOR SHIP RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY, RIGHT...?
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO WRITE AN ESSAY ABOUT IT, ANYWAY... AND YOU REALLY NEED THE CREDITS!
PLUS WE HAVE COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS THERE...
HOW ABOUT A BEER?
WE'RE COUNTING DOWN THE FINAL MINUTES TO THE INAUGURATION OF THE ELEVATOR SHIP.
SO, WHILE WE WAIT FOR THE CEREMONY TO COMMENCE, LET'S REVIEW THE HISTORY OF THIS SPECTACULAR PROJECT.
THE ELEVATOR SHIP ARRIVED IN EARTH ORBIT ONE YEAR AGO TODAY. WHEN WE REMEMBER THAT APPROVAL FOR AN ORBITAL SPACE ELEVATOR ANCHORAGE OFF HAWAII WAS GIVEN ONLY TWO YEARS AGO...
Y
X:Y = 10:1
X:Y = 10:1
...THAT'S INCREDIBLE IN AND OF ITSELF!


THE ELEVATOR SHIP WAS *ORIGINALLY* DESIGNED TO PROVIDE ORBITAL TRANSPORT FROM THE SURFACE OF THEIR OWN HOMEWORLD OF *RIOFALD*...
...BUT IT ONLY TOOK OUR AMAZING FRIENDS *ONE YEAR* TO RESTRUCTURE AN ELEVATOR TO EARTH-BASED *GEOSYNCHRONOUS* ORBITAL DIMENSIONS AND TRANSPORT IT ALL THE WAY HERE FROM THEIR DISTANT *HOME SYSTEM!*
THE RIOFALDIAN *ELEVATOR SHIP* IS AN ASTONISHING 23,000 MILES LONG! ITS SIXTEEN MIGHTY LIFTS CAN RUN *AROUND THE CLOCK* WITH POWER FROM A MASSIVE *SOLAR POWER COLLECTION ARRAY!*
02A
02B
THE LARGEST LIFT IS 650 FEET ACROSS, 650 FEET HIGH, AND *1650* FEET DEEP, ENOUGH TO CARRY *TWO SUPER-TANKERS* SIDE BY SIDE!
THESE VERSATILE LIFTS WILL *TURBOCHARGE* THE HUMAN RACE'S *EXPANSION* INTO THE *COSMOS!*
HM PH!
HAPPY LITTLE CAMPERS, AREN'T WE.
THE *PIRATES* JUST LOWERED THEIR *GANG-PLANK*...
...AND OUR IDIOT SPECIES HASN'T EVEN *NOTICED.* DAMN FOOLS! *HEY!* DID SHE MAKE *CONTACT...?*
NOT *YET,* SIR.
WELL, TELL HER TO *HURRY,* DAMN IT!

BUT... THE *MAIN UNIT* ISN'T READY, SIR...
I KNOW THAT!
FOR NOW, HE JUST NEEDS *SELF-DEFENSE*...
...THE *FUN PART* COMES LATER.
WE'RE CUTTING THINGS TOO DAMNED CLOSE AS IS.
IF SHE BRINGS HIM IN *DEAD*, IT'LL ALL BE FOR *NOTHING!!*
ATTENTION, VIEWERS! THE *WARNING LIGHTS* ON GATE ONE HAVE JUST STARTED BLINKING...
...WHICH MEANS THE *CEREMONIAL RIBBON-CUTTING* IS ONLY *TEN MINUTES* AWAY, NOW!
THE FIRST LIFTLOAD WILL BE A SPECIAL PRESENT TO THE U.N. FROM THE RIOFALDIAN GOVERNMENT!
THE *TERMINAL* WAS BUILT WITH ALIEN *NANOTECH*... NEAT, HUH?
THEY *GREW* IT IN LIKE A WEEK!
BIG DEAL!
THE NATURE OF THE PRESENT REMAINS TOP SECRET... BOOKMAKERS WILL BE TAKING BETS ON EIGHTY-EIGHT CHANNELS...


WE DON'T NEED THEIR DAMN HAND-ME-DOWNS!
THE HUMAN RACE SHOULD DEVELOP ITS OWN TECHNOLOGY!
THAT'S NONSENSE, GUN. BESIDES, YOU'RE ALREADY USING ALIEN-DERIVED TECHNOLOGY YOURSELF!
LIKE YOUR WATCH!!
HUH ...?
C'MON, WE'VE ALL BENEFITED FROM THEIR "HAND-ME-DOWNS"... LOOK, PRACTICALLY ALL THE A/V EQUIPMENT IN THIS ROOM USES ALIEN TECHNOLOGY!
AND THOUSANDS OF RIOFALDIANS ARE WORKING IN THE FORTUNE 500 AND OTHER COMPANIES...
YEAH, BECAUSE THAT'S THEIR STRATEGY. IF YOU DON'T ACCEPT THEIR HIRING QUOTAS, YOU DON'T GET THEIR PATENTS.
THEY'RE USING MONEY AND INFLUENCE TO WORM THEIR PEOPLE IN EVERY-WHERE.
IT'S LIKE NINETEENTH CENTURY COLONI-ALISM ALL OVER AGAIN...
SO YOU THINK MISS KIN'BA IS AN "INVADER," TOO?
HEY, THE COLONISTS ON THE GROUND DON'T KNOW WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON. THEY JUST, LIKE, FRATERNIZE...
MISS KIN'BA ...?
YES, ISAKA?

I'M FEELING A LITTLE, YOU KNOW, POORLY ...!
MAY I GO TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE?
OH, I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT, DEAR.
OUR STUDENT COUNIL REPRE-SENTATIVE WILL TAKE YOU THERE. YUKA...?
YES, MA'AM!
I'LL MAKE SURE YOU BOTH GET RECORDINGS OF THE BROADCAST...
KIAK
I'M SO SORRY, MA'AM ...!
ARE YOU OKAY ...?
I'LL BE FINE IF I COULD JUST LIE DOWN FOR A LITTLE BIT...!
1-A
THE NURSE'S OFFICE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.
THWK
YOU CAN LEAN ON ME IF--
HUH ...?

--TEN YEARS SINCE FIRST CONTACT! TODAY, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF RIOFALDIANS ARE WORKING SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE PEOPLE OF EARTH, GOOD NEIGHBORS ON THE ROAD TO PROSPERITY!
AZURE
THEY EXPORT RIOFALDIAN TECHNOLOGY TO US, WE EXPORT EARTH CULTURE TO THEM. TOGETHER, WE STRIDE PROUDLY INTO THE FUTURE!
AND TODAY, WE CELEBRATE THE COMPLETION OF THE ULTIMATE SYMBOL OF OUR FRIENDSHIP!
OH! THE CEREMONIAL SCISSORS HAVE JUST BEEN HANDED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE U.N.!
AND NOW THE FINAL COUNT-DOWN, AS THIS MOMEN-TOUS EVENT UN-FOLDS...

SCREW THE DAMN *ORBITAL ELEVATOR*... GIVE US YOUR *GRAVITY* AND *INERTIAL CONTROL* TECHNOLOGY...!
NOK NOK
WHO'S *THAT?* I THOUGHT EVERY-ONE WAS IN *CLASS*...
IT MUST BE *KIMI*... SHE'S BEEN HELPING ME WITH *EDITING*...
HI, KIMI!
KCHAK
BHMFF
MISS *AKANE HINO?* I'M SO PLEASED TO MEET YOU...!
HAHH ...?
I'M *ISAKA MINAGATA.* I JUST *TRANSFERRED* TO YOUR SCHOOL TODAY...
...AND I'VE COME TO *SERVE* HOICHI!

WHAHH ...?
M- ME?
YOU WANT TO "SERVE" ME?
VWIPP
THAT'S RIGHT!
SHALL WE GO SOMEPLACE PRIVATE? JUST THE TWO OF US?
WH... WHAT'S THE BIG B... uh... BIG IDEA? AND HOW DID YOU KNOW HE WAS HERE...?
OH, MY EYES AND EARS ARE JUST AS EXCEPTIONAL AS MY B--
GIMME A BREAK!
FWAPP
LADIES FIRST, ISAKA.
WHY, THANK YOU, HOICHI!
B- BUT... W- WAIT--! GUN ...!!
SLAM

WHEWW...
...?
IMMORAL JUVENILE FRATERNIZATION IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN, DAMN IT!
SHAKK
IF YOU DO ANYTHING NASTY, I'M GONNA VIDDY YOU AND UPLOAD IT TO THE PRINCIPAL!
WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS...?
GRR!! SHE JUST MET HIM!
I DON'T CARE HOW BIG HER STUPID BOOBS ARE!
KCHIK
THAT HORNY BITCH CAN'T JUST WALK IN AND... AND...
⇒sighh⇐ M-MAYBE...
...BIGGER REALLY IS BETTER ...?

AT ANY MOMENT, THE SHUTTERS WILL OPEN AND--
BINGG BONGG
JRV
WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM FOR AN EMERGENCY NEWS BULLETIN.
JUST SECONDS AGO, RIOFALDIAN WARPLANES BOMBED THE UNITED STATES DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S PENTAGON HEADQUARTERS.
!!
THE PENTAGON APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY DESTROYED. WE'RE ALSO RECEIVING FURTHER REPORTS OF ATTACKS ON ALL MAJOR U.S. AIR BASES.
LIVE CNN
EMERGENCY NEWS BULLETIN
VIA SATELLITE
WE WILL REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AS SOON AS... AH, THERE'S JUST BEEN ANOTHER ANNOUNCEMENT.

HUH ...?
WHY DO I GOTTA WEAR *THIS* ...?
IT'LL CRAMP MY *STYLE*, BABE...
PLEASE? FOR *ME?*
WELL, *OKAY*... I GUESS. IT'S JUST *ONE* HAND, AND IT WON'T INTERFERE WITH MY *FINGERS'* SENSE OF TOUCH... *HEH.*
SO... LET'S GET *TO* IT, HUH?
♥!
OH, SORRY! HE'S ALREADY *HERE...!*
HUH ...?

YO THERE, HOICHI!
AH, THE HEADY FIRES OF YOUTH!
GOOD SHOW, MY BOY!
G-GRANDPA? WHAT THE HELL ARE--
I THOUGHT WE'D WATCH THE UNFOLDING DISASTER TOGETHER, LADDIE
ISAKA! PROJECTION MODE!
YES, SIR!
HUH..?

BWEEE
WHAT'S THAT ...?
JUST THE MOST-WATCHED TV BROADCAST IN HISTORY!
OUR EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL "FRIENDS" ARE FINALLY SHOWING THEIR TRUE COLORS!
THEY JUST WIPED OUT THE WHOLE DAMN U.S. MILITARY!

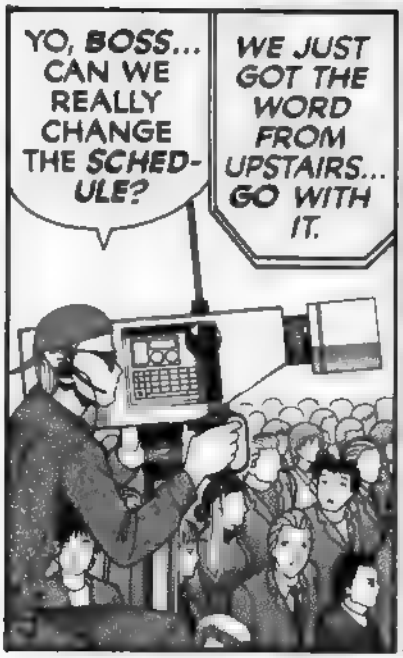
--THIS SHOCKING FOOTAGE OF THE U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIER *GRAND CANYON,* SNAPPED IN TWO BEFORE IT COULD LAUNCH A SINGLE AIRCRAFT!
NO REPORTS YET AS TO EXACTLY *WHAT* KIND OF WEAPON STRUCK THE SHIP...
...BUT CLEARLY, THE CARRIER IS A *TOTAL LOSS!*
WE HAVE INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION THAT *SIX* U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED *SIMULTANEOUSLY!*
SKREEE
RMBB RMBB RMBB
FSHHH
THE U.S. CARRIERS *MANHATTAN, ENTERPRISE, HAWAII, DEATH VALLEY,* AND *TEXAS...* ALL SUNK AT THE SAME TIME!
FSHHH
THE U.S. MILITARY SEEMS *HELPLESS* IN THE FACE OF THIS COORDINATED AND *OVERWHELMING* ASSAULT, WHICH STARTED ONLY *MINUTES* AGO WITH THE ANNIHILATION OF THE *PENTAGON* AND TH--

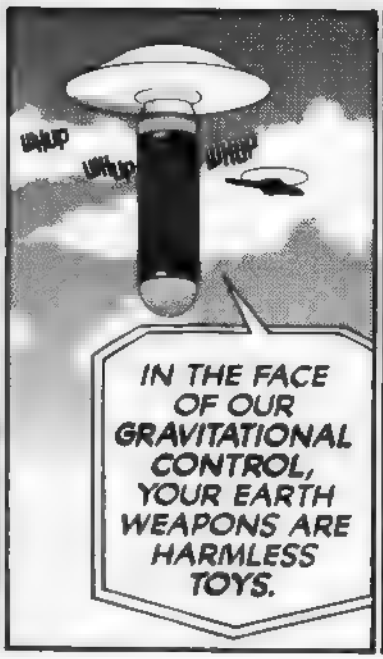
KSHHH
!!
SHOOOM
VREEE
ZZZSH
VORPP
SHOOOM
WHOOSH

WHOOM WHOOM
GRANDPA! WHAT THE HELL?!
THIS CAMERA ANGLE-- IT'S FROM THE ALIEN SIDE!
THEY'VE HIJACKED THE ENTIRE BROAD-CAST SPECTRUM, MY BOY. THEY'RE RUBBING OUR NOSES IN IT!
THE LASER BEAMS... THEY JUST... BENT!
USE YOUR HEAD, HOICHI! IF YOU CAN CONTROL GRAVITY AND INERTIA, THEN MERE BEAM WEAPONS CAN'T TOUCH YOU!
NOW CAN YOU SEE WHY THEY WOULDN'T SHARE THAT STUFF?
FWHOOOSH
FWHOOOSH

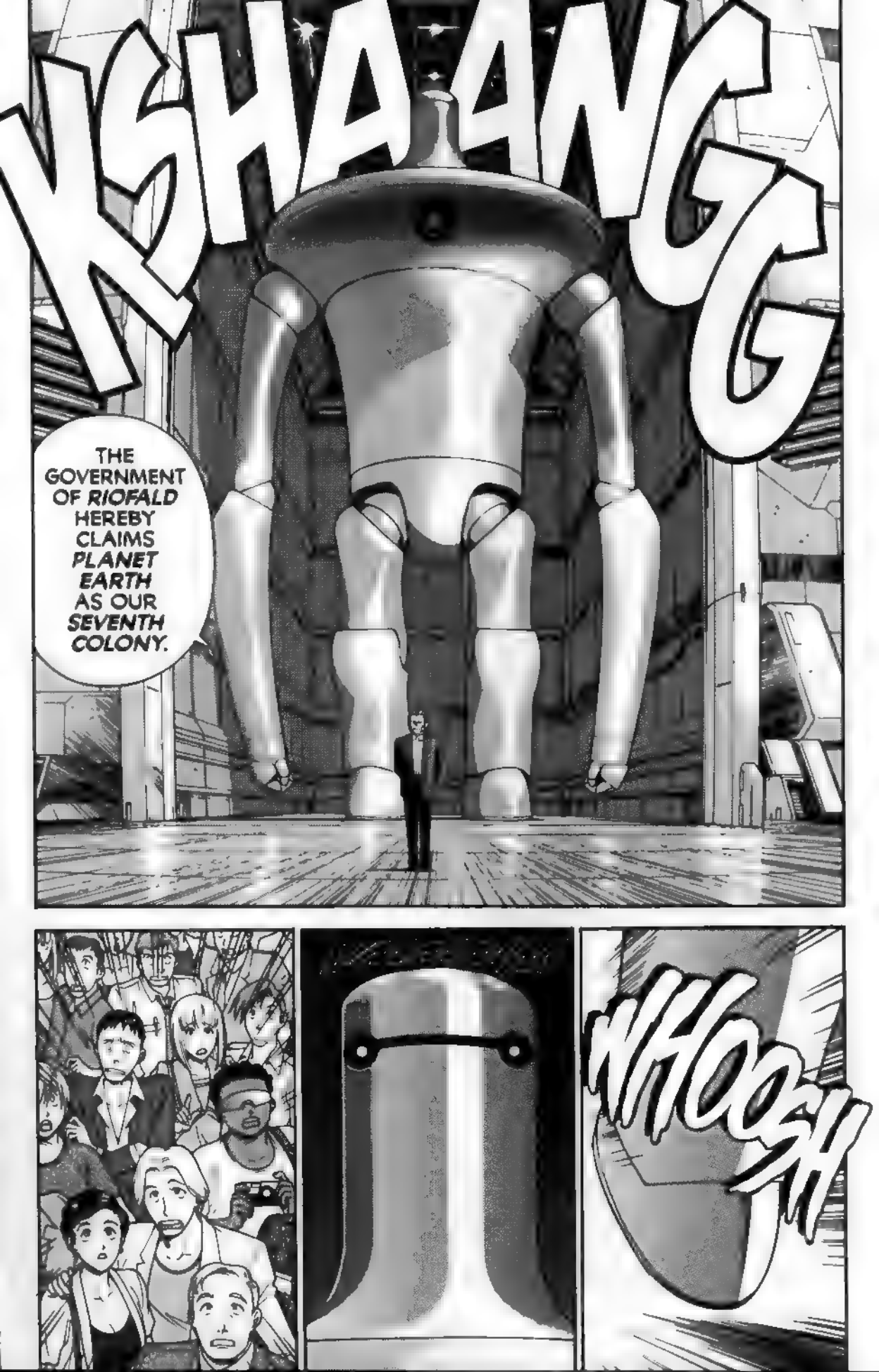
VMM
VMM
VMM
CHOOM
SPANGG
SPANGG
SPANGG
SPANGG
WHKOOM
WHKOOM
WHAT KIND OF IDIOTIC *JOKE* IS THIS?
WE'RE ABOUT TO RAISE THE *SHUTTERS!* IT'S THE *CLIMAX* OF THE CEREMONY!
COLONEL! THE U.N. SECURITY TEAM'S *WEAPONRY* HAS ALL MALFUNCTIONED *SIMULTANE-OUSLY,* SIR!
WHAT ?!
THIS *CRAZY PRANK* IS PANICKING THE CROWD!
GET ME THE RIOFALDIAN *FOREIGN MINISTRY!*
BREEP
THE RIOFAL-DIAN *AMBAS-SADOR ...?*
HE'S NOT SUPPOSED TO SPEAK UNTIL *AFTER* THE CEREMONY, SIR.

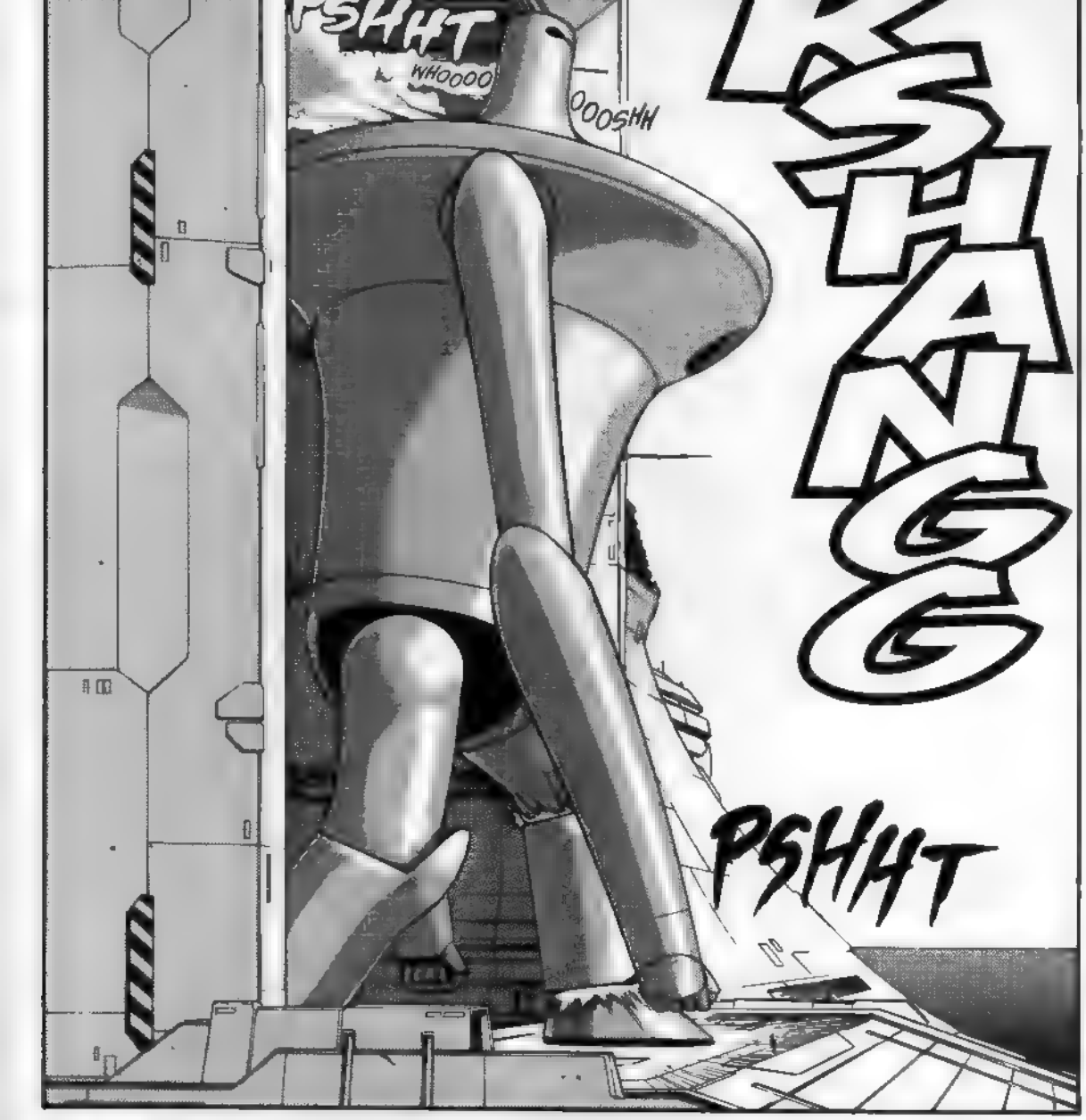
MY HUMAN FRIENDS!
AS YOU HAVE JUST SEEN, OUR RIOFALDIAN ARMED FORCES HAVE JUST EASILY CRUSHED THE ENTIRE U.N. MILITARY.
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB
RMBB


YO, BOSS... CAN WE REALLY CHANGE THE SCHEDULE?
WE JUST GOT THE WORD FROM UPSTAIRS... GO WITH IT.


WHUP WHUP WHUP
IN THE FACE OF OUR GRAVITATIONAL CONTROL, YOUR EARTH WEAPONS ARE HARMLESS TOYS.

WE HAVE ACHIEVED COMPLETE MILITARY SUPREMACY...
...ON LAND AND SEA, AND IN THE AIR-- WORLD-WIDE!!


KSHA-ANGG
THE GOVERNMENT OF *RIOFALD* HEREBY CLAIMS *PLANET EARTH* AS OUR *SEVENTH COLONY.*
WHOOSH

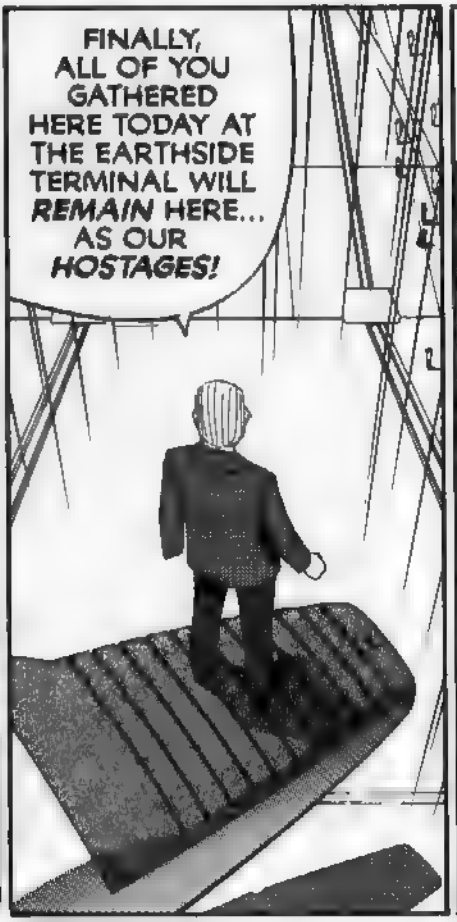

PSHHT
WHOOOO
OOOSHH
PSHHT

CHRIST I DON'T BELIEVE THIS
THIS IS NO HOAX, VIEWERS! WE'RE ACTUALLY SEEING A GIANT ROBOT BARELY SQUEEZING OUT OF THE LIFT ENTRANCE, AN ENTRANCE OVER 300 FEET HIGH!!
THIS IS FOR REAL!

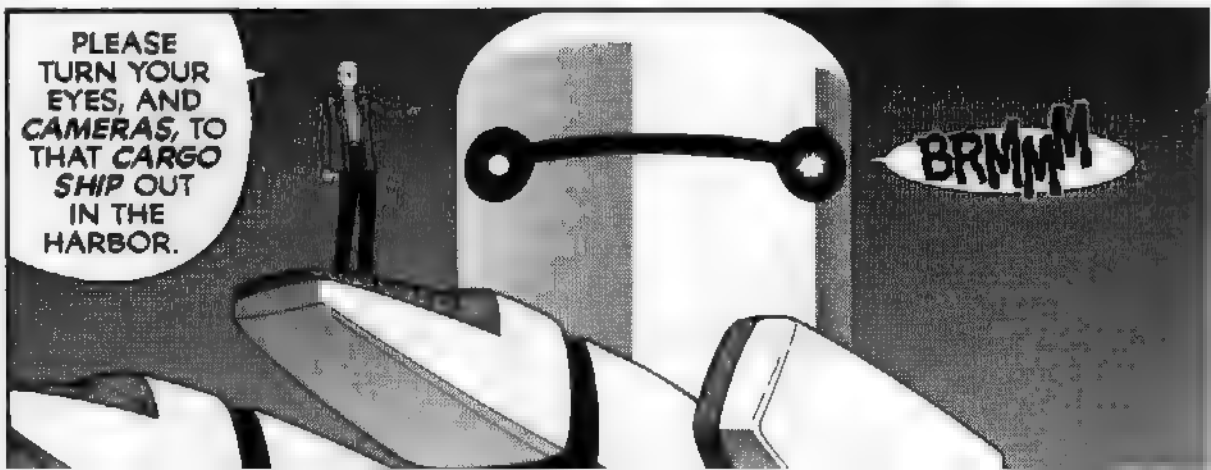
WHAT IS THAT THING...? IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF AN ANIME SHOW...!
GET THE CAMERA OVER HERE! NOW!
IS THAT THEIR PRESENT TO US ...?
HEY! DID ANYONE BET ON IT BEING A GIANT ROBOT?
FSHHHP
BBC
ALL GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON YOUR PLANET WILL BE TRANSFERRED, WITHOUT DELAY, TO RIOFALDIAN CONTROL.
ELEYE
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, ANY ACT OF RESISTANCE OR VIOLENCE AGAINST RIOFALDIANS IS FORBIDDEN UNDER THE NEW BASIC LAW.

THIS NEW *LEGAL CONCORDANCE* IS ALREADY BEING BROADCAST OVER *ALL* ELECTRONIC MEDIA IN *ALL* MAJOR EARTH LANGUAGES.
KREE
KREE
TO ENFORCE THESE LAWS, WITHIN THE HOUR *TERMINAL DRONES* WILL BE DEPLOYED AT EVERY MAJOR *PUBLIC INSTITUTION* IN EVERY COUNTRY.

YOU *CANNOT* ESCAPE OUR CONTROL.
WHSHH
HH


FINALLY, ALL OF YOU GATHERED HERE TODAY AT THE EARTHSIDE TERMINAL WILL *REMAIN* HERE... AS OUR *HOSTAGES!*

WHAT?! IS HE *SERIOUS* ...?
WHY ISN'T THE U.N. MILITARY *DOING* SOMETHING ...?
JEEZ...YOU FIGURE THAT *FOOTAGE* AND THE *ROBOT THING* ARE SOME KIND OF *MEDIA STUNT...?*


PLEASE TURN YOUR EYES, AND *CAMERAS,* TO THAT *CARGO SHIP* OUT IN THE HARBOR.
BRMMM

FZZIK
SHKK
CHOO
RMBBRMBB
FSHHH

KABOOM
FSHHHHHHHH
KSSSSHHHHHHHHH

NO ONE WILL BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THIS FACILITY UNTIL EVERY COUNTRY ON EARTH HAS COMPLETELY DISARMED.
IF YOU TRY TO ESCAPE, YOU WILL MEET THE FATE OF THAT SHIP.
THE SUREST PATH TO EARTH'S PROSPERITY IS RIOFALDIAN CONTROL!
FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, SUBMIT TO RIOFALD!
PLINK-KRSHHT
IT'S JUST LIKE YOU PREDICTED, GRANDPA!
AWESOME!
YEP! DID I CALL THAT OR WHAT?
AND NOW THAT IT'S HAPPENED, I'M THE ONLY MAN WHO HAS A WAY TO STRIKE BACK.
A WAY TO STRIKE BACK?
NO SHIT? WHAT IS IT?

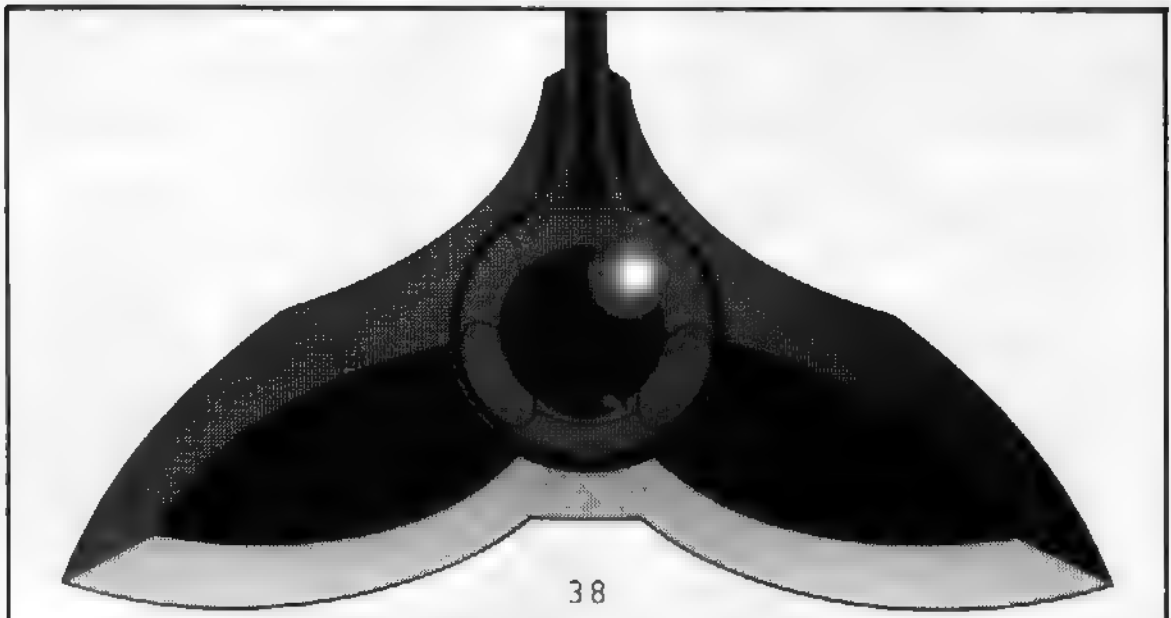
FD
IS... IS MISS KIN'BA THE ENEMY, TOO ...?
I... I DON'T KNOW.
HUH! SHE'S BEEN TRICK-ING US!
THEN... HOICHI WAS RIGHT ...?
THEY WERE LIKE FIFTH COLUMNISTS!
WHAT'S THAT?
AH... I...I'M N-NOT FEELING WELL...
...I'LL B-BE BACK IN A MOMENT. YOU CAN START READING CHAPTER FIVE WHILE I'M GONE...!
WHSSH
I-A
THWKK
OH, YEAH! GRANDPA, YOU ROCK!!
SO YOU'RE GONNA HIT 'EM RIGHT AWAY, THEN?

WHAT ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT, MY BOY? I JUST SAID THAT I HAD A *WAY* TO STRIKE BACK!
YOU'RE GOING TO DO THE ACTUAL *FIGHTING,* KID!

M-*ME* ...?
DO YOUR *BEST,* HOICHI!

YOU HEARD *RIGHT,* MY BOY! NOW, FOR *START-ERS...*
...TRY TAKING *THAT* SUCKER OUT.
LOOKY!

HUH ...?



VMMM MMMM

?!?
WHAT IS THAT THING ...?

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS ...?!
THERE WAS NO WARNING AT ALL FROM THE EMBASSY!

WHAT ARE CIVILIANS LIKE MYSELF SUPPOSED TO DO...?! WHAT ABOUT RELATIONS WITH THE HUMANS?

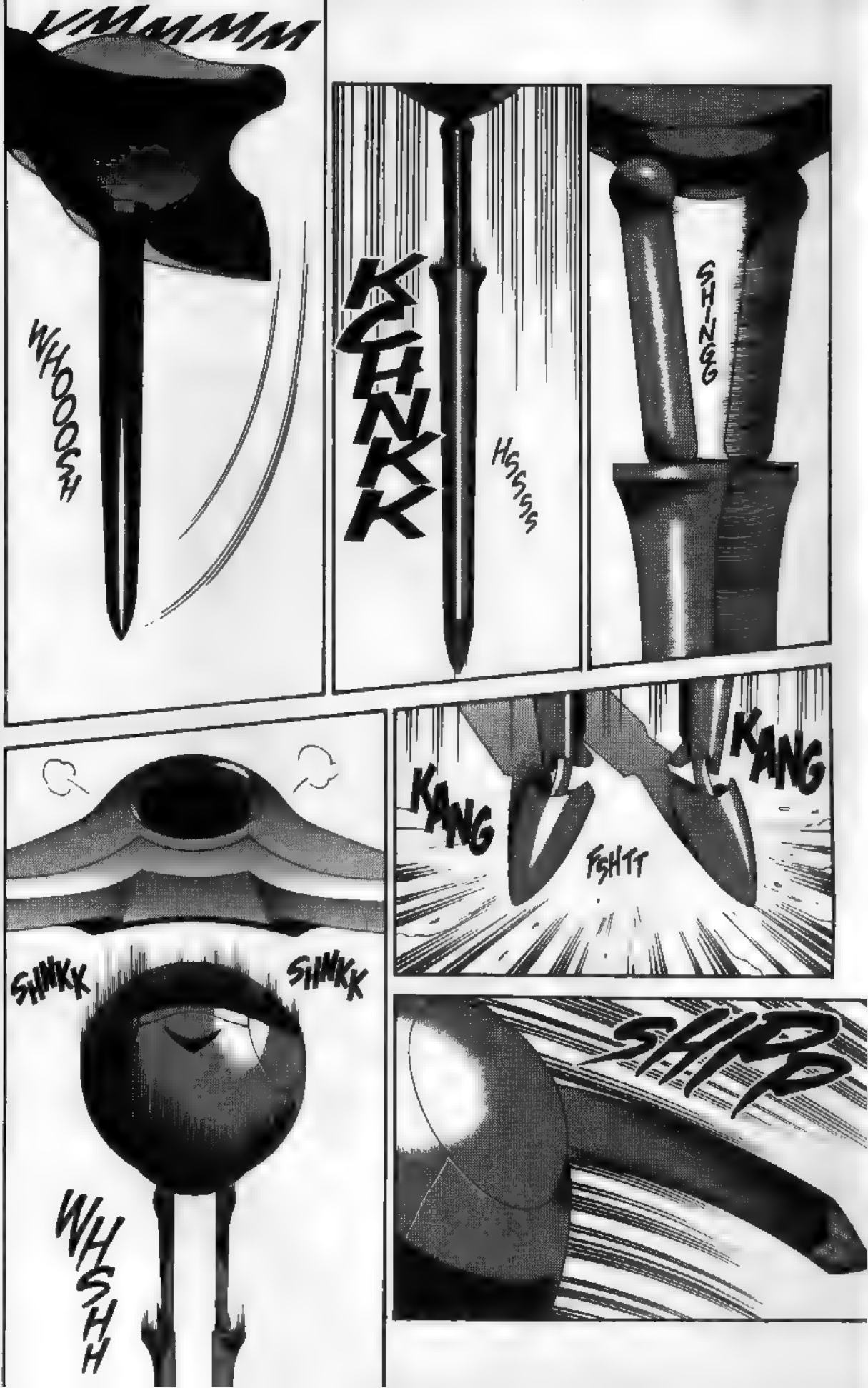
AND MY WORK... A-AND MY SAFETY ...? ....
WHAT? A TERMINAL DRONE? NOT THAT ...!
KLIK

OH, IT'S ONE OF THOSE TERMINAL DRONES THE SO-CALLED "AMBASSADOR" WAS TALKING ABOUT.

NOT THAT...
KSSHH

sigh
HEY, YOU! KIN'BA!

!
HE'S GOTTA BE OUT BEHIND THE ANNEX...!
MAKING OUT AT A TIME LIKE THIS... IDIOT...!
AH--?!
VMMMM
WHSHH
SKRSSH


VMMMM
WHOOOSH
KCHNKK
HSSSS
SHINGG
KANG
KANG
FSHTT
SHNKK
SHNKK
WHSHH
SHRP

J-JEEZ... IS THAT A...
"TER-MINAL DRONE" ...?
WEEEE
ALL GOOD STUDENTS MUST STUDY HARD.
YOU SHOULD BE IN CLASS.
HAHH?
LET US ALL OBEY THE RULES.
THDD
M-MR. TANAKA... WH-WHAT ARE YOU--
SHUT UP, YOU... YOU ALIEN FREAK!
THAT KANO KID'S GRAND-FATHER WAS RIGHT...
...YOU'VE BEEN SUCKERING US ALL THIS TIME!

MY BROTHER'S ON YOUR GODDAMNED EARTHSIDE TERMINAL!
YOU CALL YOUR FRIGGING AMBASSADOR AND GET HIM RELEASED!
MR. TANAKA! I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT THIS!
AND A MERE CIVILIAN LIKE ME CAN'T POSSIBLY DO--
LIAR --!
KRAK
EEK!
VREEEE?
BRMMM
SO...THIS IS YOUR SECRET WEAPON, GRANDPA ...?
YEP! NOW-- TRANS-FORM, BOY! BE A HERO!
THEN, SHE, uh, WORKS FOR YOU...?
SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

IT'S GOT FULL VOICE RECOGNITION SOFTWARE, KID. GO ON AND TALK TO IT.
WELL, OKAY ...!
UH... "TRANS-FORM" ...?
KCHINGG
SHREEEE
SHREEEE
GAHH!
THAPP

SHMP
VREEE
KRK KRK
FWAPP
WHPP

.....
...?
FSHHH
WH-WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
I'VE DUBBED IT...THE GUNNER SUIT!
A NECESSITY FOR THE NECESSITY OF BEING A HERO!

A NECES-SITY...
...FOR A NECES-SITY...?
WHAT THE HELL...?
B-BUT...I... I REALLY C-CAN'T DO ANY-THING... I...I'M NOT...
DON'T LIE TO ME, YOU ALIEN BI--
SHINGG
DO IT! FREE MY BROTHER NOW!
!!
OFFENSE: VIOLENCE AGAINST A RIOFALDIAN. SENTENCE: DEATH.
FHTT

VIPp
AAA!!
THD
WHSSH
SHLKK
SPLTT
WHAT THE HELL WAS *THAT* ...?
IT'S *STARTED*, MY BOY. NOW...GET OUT THERE AND *FIGHT!*
VIXXION
CANNON
TO BE CONTINUED...!

SKIPPING SCHOOL...
ACTING TOUGH...
SAVING THE WORLD!

1.2

EEEEEYAAAA

OVER BY THE *WALK-WAY...* THAT SOUNDED LIKE...

HOICHI! *FULL COVER!*

SHINGG

KCHAK

KCHAK

!!

UH... WHAT'S *THIS ...?*

FULL SHIELDING, CLOSING IN *0.001* OF A SECOND... *WITHOUT* CATCHING YOUR HAIR!

PRESERVING NOT ONLY YOUR FACE AND SKULL, BUT YOUR *IDENTITY* AS WELL!

WE THOUGHT IT BEST TO KEEP YOU UNIDENTIFIED, FOR NOW

SOMETIMES, HEROES GOTTA *HIDE THEIR FACES,* DON'T THEY? *RIGHT!*

SO! GO SET THE PLACE ON *FIRE,* BOY!

ALL RIGHT! YEAH!
FSSH
ISAKA! YOU'RE HIS BACK-UP, UNDERSTAND? I'VE GOTTA GO FINISH THAT DAMN THING... YOU KNOW...
YES, SIR!
WHOA!
DAMN!
"GUNNER SUIT," HUH?
THIS THING IS AWE-SOME!

MOVING SO *FAST*... WITH NO EFFORT AT *ALL...!*

*WHAT DID YOU **EXPECT**, BOY? YOU'RE GETTING **FULL** POWER ASSIST, WITH **ZERO** TIME-LAG! BUT DON'T **PUSH** IT UNTIL YOU'RE **USED** TO HANDLING THE SUIT, OKAY?*

HUH?

AH --!

N-NO!

I CAN'T--

--CAN'T--

--STOP--!

CRASH

SKRRNG
HUH ...?
OVER IN THE PARKING LOT...?
AN ACCIDENT OR SOME-THING ...?
NO! KEEP YOUR FOCUS, DARN IT!
COVERING THAT ROBOT COMES FIRST!
THE FIRST FOOTAGE EVER OF A TERMINAL DRONE, UP-CLOSE AND PERSONAL!
TWENTY METERS IN A SINGLE BOUND! ALIEN HYPER-TECHNOLOGY REVEALED!
HINO'S FIRST SCOOP!
H... HOLY SHIT!
SKREEK
TH-THIS...

...THIS IS GREAT!

TOTALLY FREAKIN' GREAT!

SPLECH

SPLAPP

NOOOO!!

VREEE

IT IS ILLEGAL TO ARCHIVE TERMINAL DRONE OPERATIONS WITHOUT PERMISSION.

SURRENDER YOUR RECORDING UNIT IMMEDIATELY.

AH...
AHH...
....
IF YOU DO NOT OBEY, I WILL FORCIBLY CONFISCATE YOUR RECORDING UNIT.
AAA
STOP IT! D-DON'T HURT THE STUDENTS!

WHAT'S THAT BIG ROUND **BLACK** THING?

SHIT! THAT'S A **BODY** OVER THERE! SOMEONE'S **DEAD!**

OH MY **GOD** ...!

SOME-BODY CALL THE *COPS*, DAMN IT...!

ATTENTION, CITIZEN **KIN'BA**: RIOFALDIAN CIVILIANS HAVE NO AUTHORITY OVER **POLICE** ACTIONS.

BUT... BUT THAT'S *NOT*...

AKANE HINO, FRESHMAN, GROUP E, STUDENT NUMBER TWENTY-ONE: FOLLOW ORDERS IMMEDIATELY.

NON-COMPLIANCE WITH ORDERS WILL RESULT IN DEMON-STRATIVE EXECUTION.

I... I...

NON-COMPLIANCE. CARRYING OUT EXECUTION.

SHING

VREEE

VMMMM

WSHING

KSHING

GO HIDE IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING! NOW!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS PIECE OF ALIEN CRAP!
NOW GO!
G... GUN?!
VREEE
SHNKK
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE IS A CAPITAL CRIME.
SHINGG
REMOVE YOUR HELMET AND IDENTIFY YOURSELF.
BITE ME, EIGHT BALL!
WHOK

I DON'T TAKE *ORDERS*--

--FROM *ANY* GOD-DAMNED *ALIEN!*

YOU *HEAR* ME?! I--

VIOLENCE AGAINST TERMINAL DRONE CONFIRMED. SENTENCE: EXECUTION.

GKK!

SHNKK

VREEE

KRK
KRNK!!
HHNG-
RAAA!
SKRNKK
NNOH!
VREEE?!
SKREEK

FWHPP
KRKK
SKRAKK!
WHRAMM
VNMMM
WHNCK

NNF
HEY, G-GRANDPA... DON'T I GET...ANY WEAPONS ...?
YOU GET A GUN, BOY! NICE BIG ONE, TOO!
VRRT
JUST OPEN YOUR HAND AND CALL FOR IT-- CODE "GUN SET"!
GHMPH!
SHNKK
G-GUN...
THNKK
THNKK THNKK
GUN SET!

EXAKYION
KCHKK
THAPP
VREEE
VWD

FOOM

FOOM

KRAKK

RMBBB

WHOA!

KRIK

KREEEK

BOMP

HOT DAMN!

WHAT IS THIS?!

FIFTY CALIBER MAGNETIC LINEAR ACCELERATOR, FIRING ARMOR-PIERCING SLUGS AT MACH EIGHT, MY BOY.

AMMO AND POWER FEED THROUGH THAT UMBILICAL CONNECTED TO YOUR SUIT'S BACKPACK... SEE?

CLAP CLAP

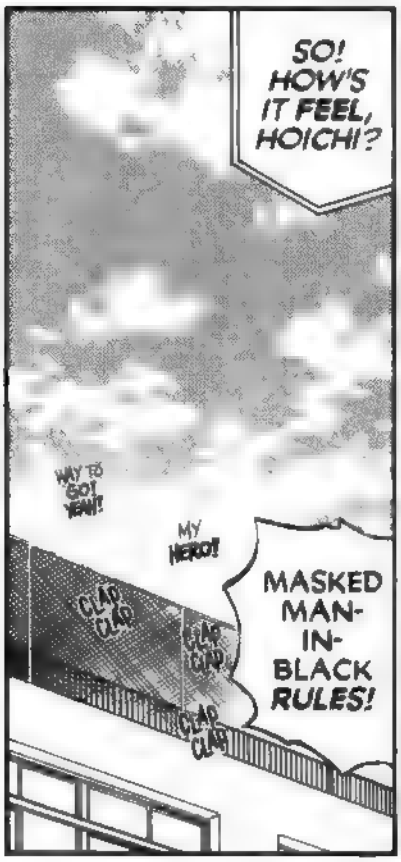
CLAP CLAP CLAP

CLAP CLAP CLAP

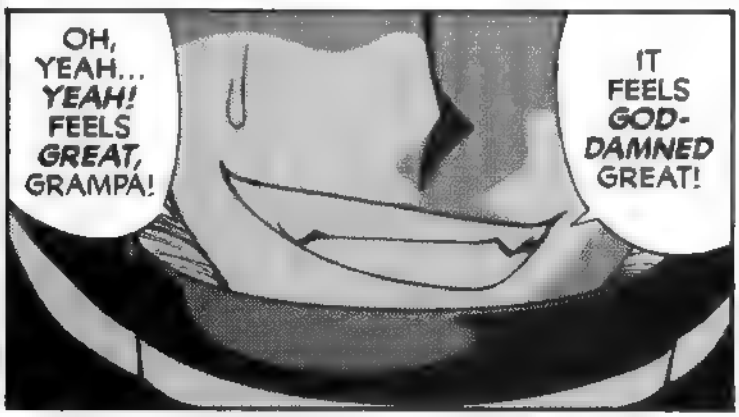
WOW... DAMN ...!

AWE-SOME! TOO COOL!

WAY TO KICK ROFALDIAN ASS!
FREAKIN' A, DUDE!
SHOW US YOUR FACE, MAN!
ROBOT KILLER, YOU'RE MY HERO!


SO! HOW'S IT FEEL, HOICHI?
MASKED MAN-IN-BLACK RULES!
WAY TO GO! YEAH!
MY HERO!
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP

HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE A HERO?
EVERYONE, BACK TO YOUR CLASSROOMS!
EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO BE A MASKED MYSTERY HERO, ALAS...!
CALL THE POLICE!


OH, YEAH... YEAH! FEELS GREAT, GRAMPA!
IT FEELS GOD-DAMNED GREAT!

VMMMM
GLAD TO HEAR IT, MY BOY! SO, WHILE YOU'RE ON A ROLL...WHY DON'T YOU POLISH OFF THAT RIOFALDIAN AERIAL TRANSPORT OVER THERE?
HUH?
AERIAL TRANS-PORT ...?
WHSSHHH
THE CARRIER FOR THAT BLACK MEATBALL I TRASHED, RIGHT?
NO SWEAT-- I'M ON IT.
BOOM
SPAK

STAGE 1.2 -- END

1.3

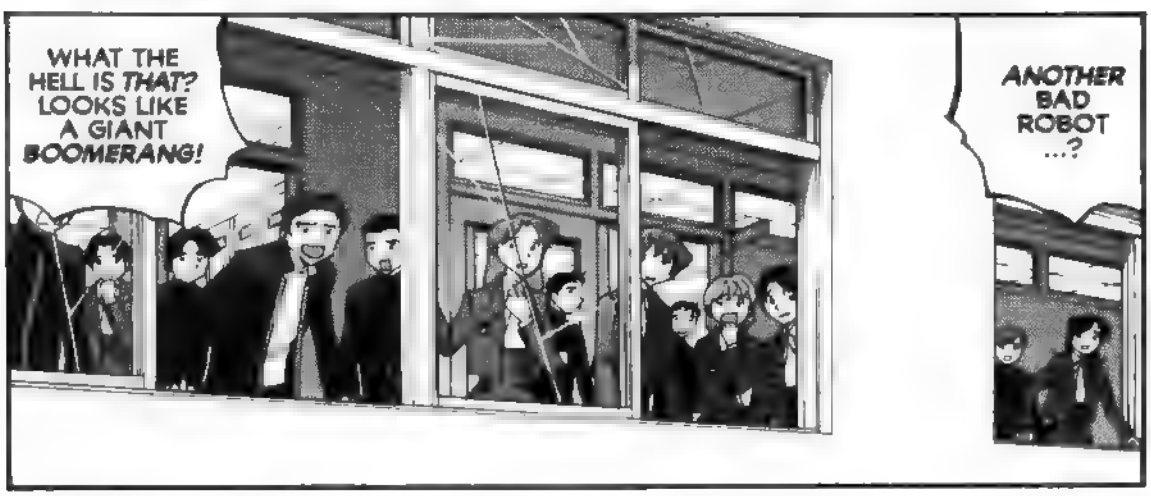
SKRANGG

SHINK

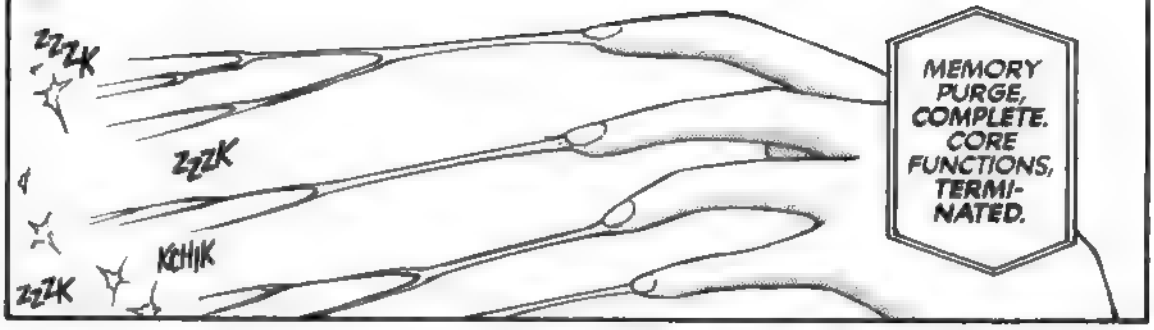
WHSSH

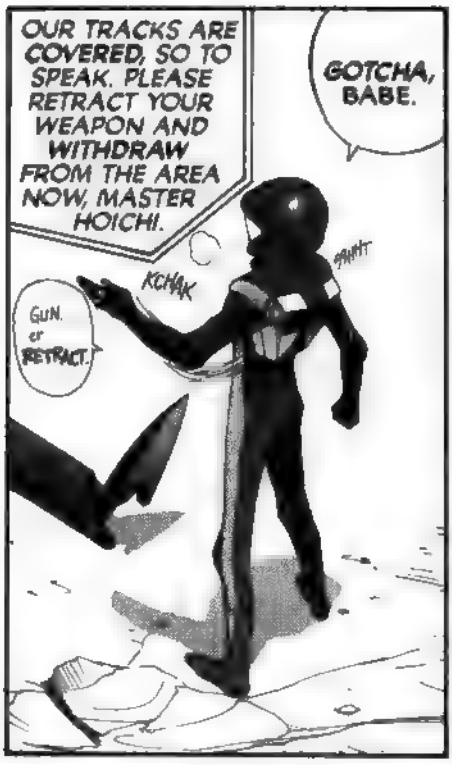
EEK!

WH
CHAK
GCHUK
SKRASH
WHAA!!


WHAT THE HELL IS *THAT*? LOOKS LIKE A GIANT *BOOMERANG!*
ANOTHER BAD ROBOT ...?

NNG..
WELL, SHIT!
YOUR HELMET VISOR HAS BEEN BREACHED, MASTER HOICHI
WHOA...!
IT'S NECESSARY TO UNDO YOUR GUNNER SUIT'S TRANSFORMATION AND PERFORM MAINTENANCE.
BUT GET OUT OF SIGHT BEFORE ANYONE SEES YOUR FACE, WON'T YOU...?
PRETTY PLEASE...?
THE TERMINAL DRONE IS NONFUNCTIONAL. THE AERIAL TRANSPORT IS COMPLETELY IMMOBILIZED, BUT THE CENTRAL CORE IS STILL OPERATIONAL.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT HERE.
HOW ARE YOU GONNA DO THAT, ISAKA?
EASY.
I'M INSINUATING NANO-SCALE MANIPULATORS INTO ITS STRUCTURE, RIGHT NOW...
VREEE
ZZZK

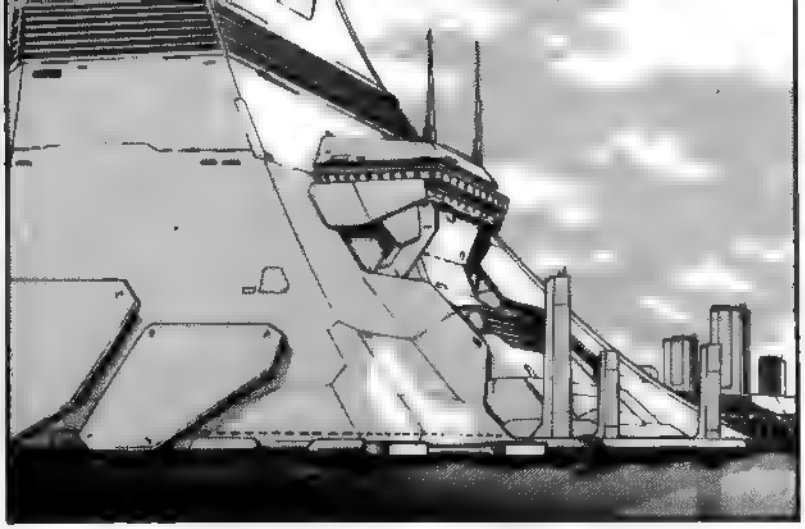

ZZZK
ZZZK
KCHIK
ZZZK
MEMORY PURGE, COMPLETE. CORE FUNCTIONS, TERMI-NATED.

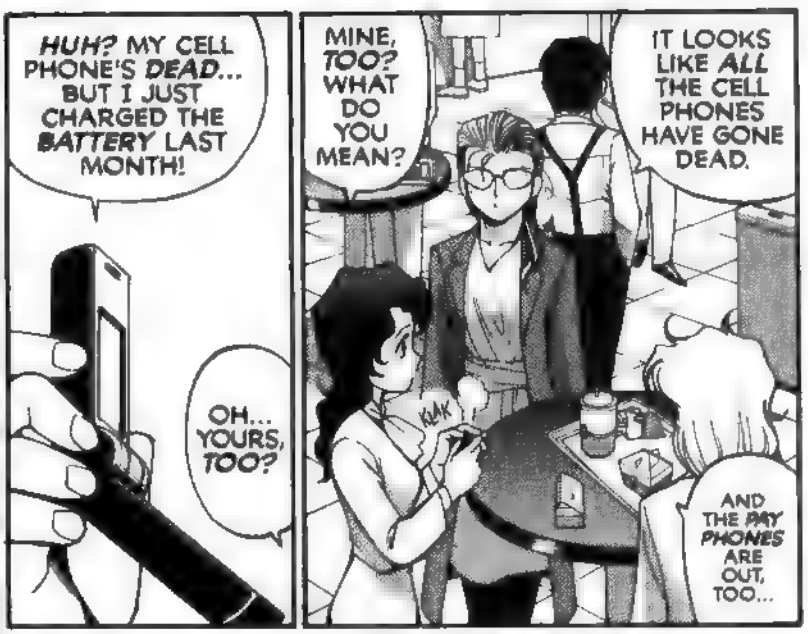

OUR TRACKS ARE COVERED, SO TO SPEAK. PLEASE RETRACT YOUR WEAPON AND WITHDRAW FROM THE AREA NOW, MASTER HOICHI.
GOTCHA, BABE.
KCHAK
SHHT
GUN. or RETRACT.

FWHTT

WHOA !!

G-GUN ...?
IS THAT REALLY YOU...!




HUH? MY CELL PHONE'S DEAD... BUT I JUST CHARGED THE BATTERY LAST MONTH!
OH... YOURS, TOO?
MINE, TOO? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IT LOOKS LIKE ALL THE CELL PHONES HAVE GONE DEAD.
KLAK
AND THE PAY PHONES ARE OUT, TOO...

WE'RE CUT OFF, MA'AM. THE RIOFALDIANS HAVE SHUT DOWN OUR COMMUNI-CATIONS NETWORKS, SOMEHOW...
WNC™
NOT NOW... IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STORY OF THE CENTURY ...?

IT'S NOT THE POWER SUPPLY, DOESN'T SEEM LIKE JAMMING... COULD IT BE THE MICROCHIPS, MAYBE...?
YEAH, IT'S GOTTA BE... EVERY DAMN PIECE OF OUR GEAR USES RIOFALDIAN-DESIGNED CHIPS...!
WNC™

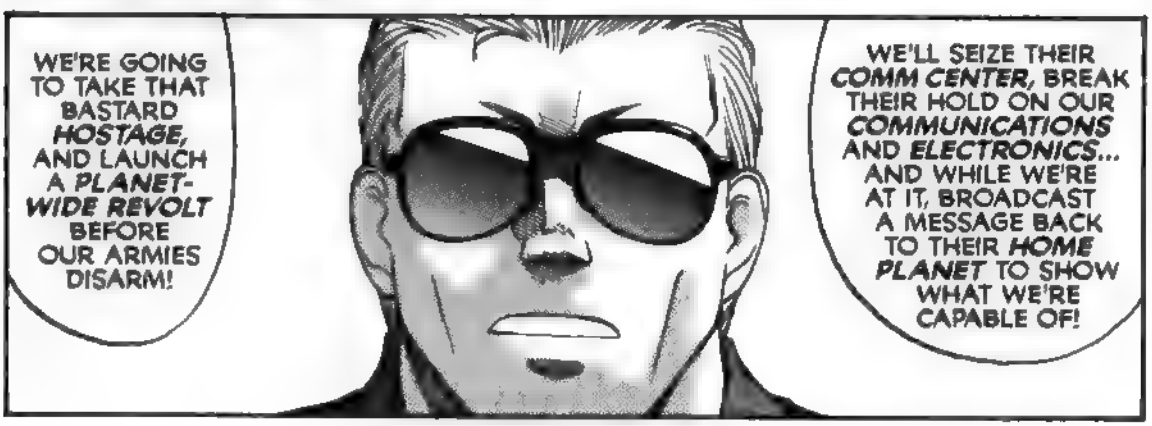
HUH... GUESS WE'RE ALL *HOSTAGES,* BUT IT STILL DOESN'T FEEL *REAL,* SOMEHOW...
YEAH... I THOUGHT THEY'D, Y'KNOW, *SEGREGATE* THE MEN FROM THE WOMEN, OR RESTRICT OUR *MOVEMENTS...*
...BUT EVERYTHING'S STILL *OPEN,* WORKING LIKE NORMAL... JUST LIKE *YESTERDAY,* BEFORE THIS ALL HAPPENED...
YEAH, WELL, THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT ALL THE *RIOFALDIANS* ARE GONE... ALL EXCEPT THE *GUARDS* IN THE OFF-LIMIT AREAS. HEY, *HINO...* MAKE SURE YOU GET SOME *VIDEO* OF THAT *ROBOT* OVER THERE, HUH?
THOSE SUCKERS ARE FLOATING AROUND *EVERY-WHERE,* NOW.
MUST BE *POLICE* OR *SECURITY,* I GUESS...
HEY, DID YOU HEAR WHAT HAPPENED TO THE *U.N. GUARDS* AND THE *SECRET SERVICE* GUYS, HINO?
I HEARD THEIR FANCY, ALIEN-TECH *LASER RIFLES* SUDDENLY WENT *DEAD* ON THEM. THE RIOFALDIANS JUST ROUNDED THEM UP LIKE *SHEEP...!*
LOOKS LIKE *EVERYTHING* BUILT WITH RIOFALDIAN TECH HAS SHUT ITSELF DOWN...
H-HEY! WHAT IF MY CAMERA'S *MEMORY* IS DEAD..?
COME *ON,* GIRL-- THIS IS ALL GONNA BE *CENSORED,* ANYWAY.
EACH OF YOU HAS A *FIREARM,* CORRECT?
EXCELLENT. NOW, IS THIS ALL THE *AMMO* WE COULD FIND..?

ALL RIGHT, THEN-- EVERYONE GEAR UP! TAKE SIX MAGS EACH!
SIR...?! WE CAN'T BREAK THE CODE ON THE LASER RIFLES' BLACK BOXES.
NOT SURPRISING.
ALMOST EVERY INDUSTRIAL PRODUCT ON THE PLANET USES RIOFALDIAN MICROCHIPS... ALL EQUIPPED WITH BUILT-IN TROJAN HORSE FEATURES, AS IT TURNS OUT.
QUITE AN IMPRESSIVE STRATEGY, REALLY... TEN YEARS IN THE MAKING!
THEY'VE WORMED THEIR PEOPLE INTO THE TOP LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS IN EVERY U.N. COUNTRY. THEY HAVE ALL OUR SECRETS IN THE PALMS OF THEIR HANDS.
THEY'RE ABOUT TO TAKE OVER ALL THE TERRITORY, ASSETS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE OF AN ENTIRE PLANET IN A SINGLE DAY.
THE MOST EFFICIENT WAR IN HISTORY.
.....
.....

AH, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE *DEFENSE-LESS.*
THE WORLD'S STILL FULL OF THE *LAST* GENERATION OF WEAPONS.

FIREARMS! NO ALIEN TECHNOLOGY, JUST GOOD OLD-FASHIONED *GUNPOWDER!* THEY CAN'T SWITCH *THESE* OFF!
KCHAK
EACH OF US HAVE ONE...
TEN-MILLIMETER *SEMIAUTOMATICS,* FIRING TWO-HUNDRED GRAIN TEFLON-COATED *KTW* PENETRATOR ROUNDS. EIGHTEEN ROUNDS IN THE *MAGAZINE,* PLUS ONE IN THE *CHAMBER.*

AND WE HAVE THEIR SO-CALLED "AMBASSADOR," *ZOBROZAPHKA SHES'KA,* RIGHT HERE IN THIS *ELEVATOR BASE.*
HE'S A *MILITARY MAN,* OF COURSE. A *LIEUTENANT-GENERAL,* IT TURNS OUT. HE'S THE *ACTING HEAD* OF THEIR MILITARY INVASION FORCES.


WE'RE GOING TO TAKE THAT BASTARD *HOSTAGE,* AND LAUNCH A *PLANET-WIDE REVOLT* BEFORE OUR ARMIES DISARM!
WE'LL SEIZE THEIR *COMM CENTER,* BREAK THEIR HOLD ON OUR *COMMUNICATIONS* AND *ELECTRONICS...* AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT, BROADCAST A MESSAGE BACK TO THEIR *HOME PLANET* TO SHOW WHAT WE'RE CAPABLE OF!

HAVE YOU LOCATED THAT MISSING U.N. SPECIAL FORCES TEAM?
NO, SIR! NOT YET...
SIR, I'VE CHECKED THE INVENTORY OF CONFISCATED FIREARMS, AND THE NUMBERS DON'T MATCH.
I'M RAISING OUR INTERNAL SECURITY READI-NESS LEVEL.
GENERAL SHES'KA! WE'VE RECEIVED A FIELD REPORT!
BOTH PARTS OF TERMINAL DRONE UNIT ONE-ZERO-FIVE, OPERATING IN TOKYO, HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED AS DESTROYED, SIR.
IS THAT SO..? WELL, DOES ITS VIDEO MEMORY SHOW WHAT HAPPENED?
JUST UNTIL SHORTLY AFTER THE EXECUTION, SIR. ALL SUBSEQUENT MEMORY FILES WERE WIPED CLEAN.
WHAT?! THAT'S NOT POSSI-BLE!
YES, SIR. I KNOW IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, SIR...
...BUT CLEARLY, SOMEONE HAS HACKED INTO THE AERIAL TRANSPORT'S MEMORY AND ERASED ANY FILES THAT WEREN'T ALREADY PACKET-TRANSMITTED HERE.
THE HARDWARE SHOULD BE IMPERVIOUS TO HUMAN INTER-VENTION, BUT...
...THEY'VE MANAGED TO NOT ONLY PHYSICALLY INCAPACITATE THE DRONE'S UNITS... THEY'VE SUCCESSFULLY TAMPERED WITH THEIR COMPUTER SYSTEMS!

.....
.....
TOKYO... THAT'S IN JAPAN, ISN'T IT?
MOVE SOROSARM OUT ONTO THE RUNWAY AND PREPARE ITS MAIN CANNON FOR FIRING.
SELECT A MAJOR, HIGH-VALUE TARGET IN JAPAN.
SOME-THING... CONSPIC-UOUS.
YES, SIR!

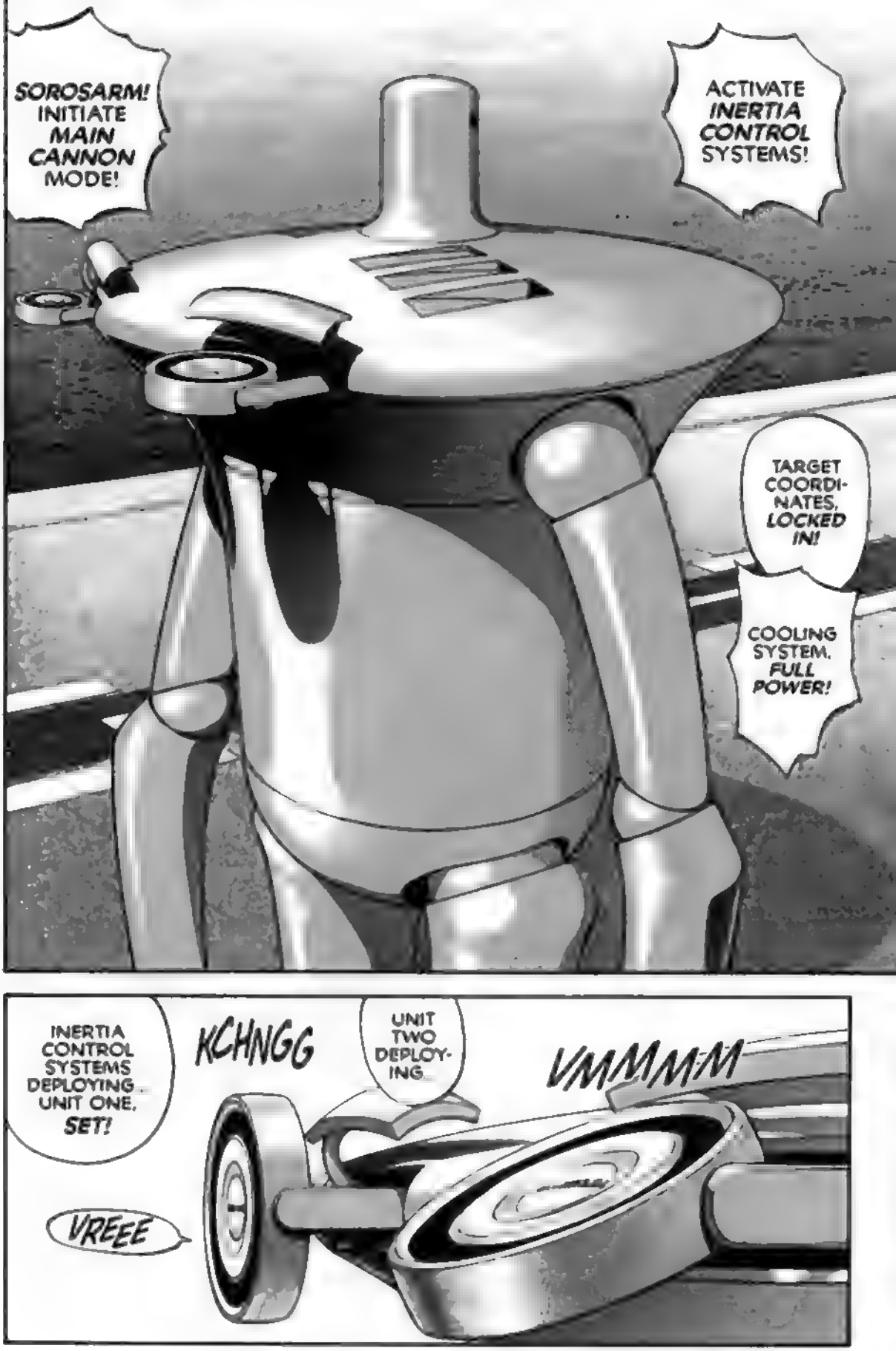
WASHINGG
NNG
SHNKK
NOW, LET ME REPAIR YOUR SUIT'S HELMET VISOR...
WHEN THEY'RE REASSEMBLED, THEY'RE AS GOOD AS NEW. BETTER, IN FACT!
THEY INTERFERE WITH GUNNER SUIT TRANSFORMATION, YOU SEE, SO THEY'RE AUTOMATICALLY SCANNED, DECONSTRUCTED AND STORED.
SAY... WHAT HAPPENS TO MY CLOTHES ...?
HUH?
FMPD

SHLPP
!!
WHA-WHA-WHAT?!
DON'T PULL OUT, PLEASE!
BUT... BUT... JEEZ! OH, MAN...!
OOH ...!
PLEASE DON'T WIGGLE YOUR FINGERS...! IT TICKLES!
WHOA ...!
SH POP
NOW, SINCE YOUR SUIT'S STRUCTURE IS REPAIRED...
...WE CAN CONCERN OURSELVES WITH THE MATTER OF MISS AKANE HINO!
OMPH!
SHMPP
ISAKA...! DON'T TELL ME... YOU'RE A--
YES. AN ANDROID MANUFACTURED BY YOUR GRANDFATHER.

"AKANE...? WHAT ABOUT HER...?"
"WELL, YOU SEE, WHILE YOUR SUIT'S HELMET AUTOMATICALLY ALTERS AND DISGUISES YOUR VOICE PATTERN...
WOMEN'S SHOWER ROOM
Please request permission at the Principal's Office for after-hours and weekend use.
NO
Pleas
clear
show
safet
"...NONETHELESS, AKANE APPEARS TO HAVE REALIZED YOUR IDENTITY, POSSIBLY BASED ON YOUR INTONATION AND SPEECH PATTERNS."
SKREEK
DO YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF CLOTHES, AKANE...?
I CAN GET YOU SOME SPARE GYM CLOTHES FROM THE SUPPLY CABINET, IF--
I'M OKAY, MA'AM... REALLY!
I'VE GOT CLEAN EXERCISE GEAR IN MY LOCKER.
I'VE EVEN GOT SPARE GLASSES!
08
09
I'M... I'M SO SORRY, AKANE... YOU COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED!
BUT... BUT THERE REALLY WASN'T ANY-THING I COULD HAVE--

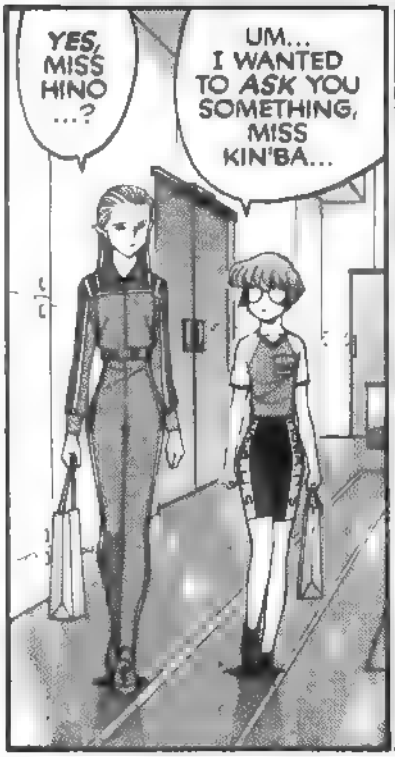
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM, MA'AM... I'M A JOURNALIST, REMEMBER?
OBJECTIVITY AND EMOTIONAL DISTANCE AND ALL THAT, RIGHT?
BACK IN THE COLONIAL DAYS HERE ON EARTH, THE ARMIES USED TO DO AWFUL THINGS TO THE NATIVES, AND THEIR OWN CIVILIANS LIVING THERE WERE POWERLESS TO STOP THEM, RIGHT?
BESIDES, I KNOW YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH WHAT HAPPENED, MISS KIN'BA... NOT YOU!
HAHH ...?
OH, AKANE... THANK YOU...!
AW, MISS KIN'BA... IT'S OKAY... YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO...
=sniff= THANK YOU SO, SO MUCH...!
HOMA HS

SO WHERE'D GRANDPA GO...?
OH, THAT WAS JUST A HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE RELAYED THROUGH MY PROCESSORS...!
MASTER HOSUKE HAS BEEN AT HIS LABORATORY THE WHOLE TIME.
HIS LAB ...?
YES.
HEY, IT'S GUN!
YO, HOICHI! DID YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENED ON TV?
YOU AND YOUR GRAMPA WERE RIGHT, DUDE!
WHOA! IS THAT THE NEW GIRLFRIEND? DAMN!
HOICHI, FORGIVE ME FOR MAKING FUN OF YOU...
MERCENARY, AREN'T THEY? JUST AN HOUR AGO THEY WERE TREATING YOU LIKE AN ECCENTRIC.
AH, SCREW 'EM.
HEY, HOICHI! CHECK THIS OUT...!
ON TV! THE RIOFALDIANS JUST SAID THAT THEY'RE GONNA ATTACK JAPAN!
HUH?


SOROSARM! INITIATE MAIN CANNON MODE!
ACTIVATE INERTIA CONTROL SYSTEMS!
TARGET COORDI-NATES, LOCKED IN!
COOLING SYSTEM, FULL POWER!
INERTIA CONTROL SYSTEMS DEPLOYING... UNIT ONE, SET!
KCHNGG
UNIT TWO DEPLOY-ING...
VMMMM
VREEE

VREEEEEE
KONG!
MAIN CANNON, LOADED! READY!
UNIT TWO, SET. ALL INERTIA CONTROL SYSTEMS. READY!
CANNON ELEVATION, SET! READY!
PSSHT
ARE THEY REALLY GOING TO ATTACK JAPAN?
HOW'S THAT CANNON THING SUPPOSED TO REACH AROUND THE WORLD?
CAMERAS
MAIN CANNON READY TO FIRE!

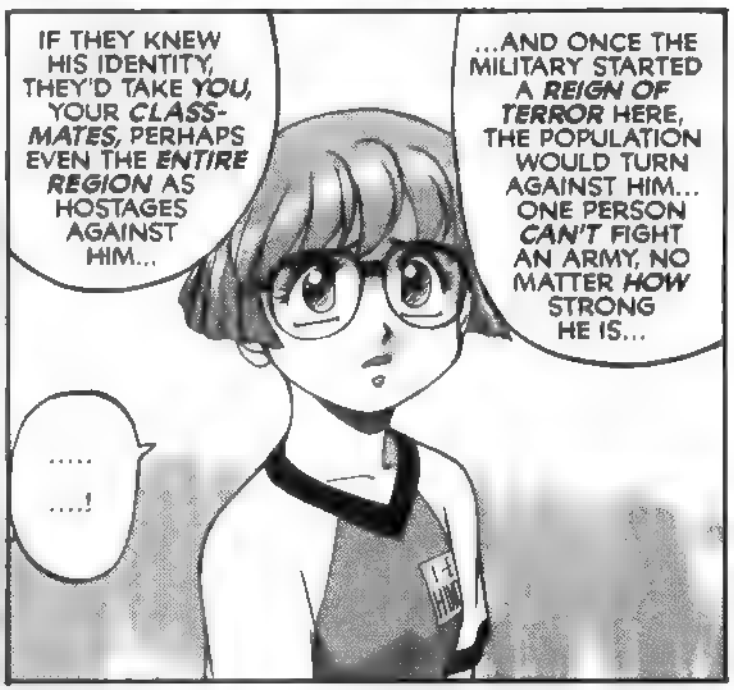
TRANSFER *FIRE CONTROL* TO THE COMMANDER'S STATION!
TRANSFERRING FIRE CONTROL TO *GENERAL SHES'KA!*
YES, SIR!


YES, MISS HINO ...?
UM... I WANTED TO *ASK* YOU SOMETHING, MISS KIN'BA...

THAT *GUY* WHO WAS *FIGHTING*... YOU KNOW, IN THE *BLACK SUIT?* WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO HIM IF THE *RIOFALDIAN MILITARY* FOUND OUT WHO HE WAS...?

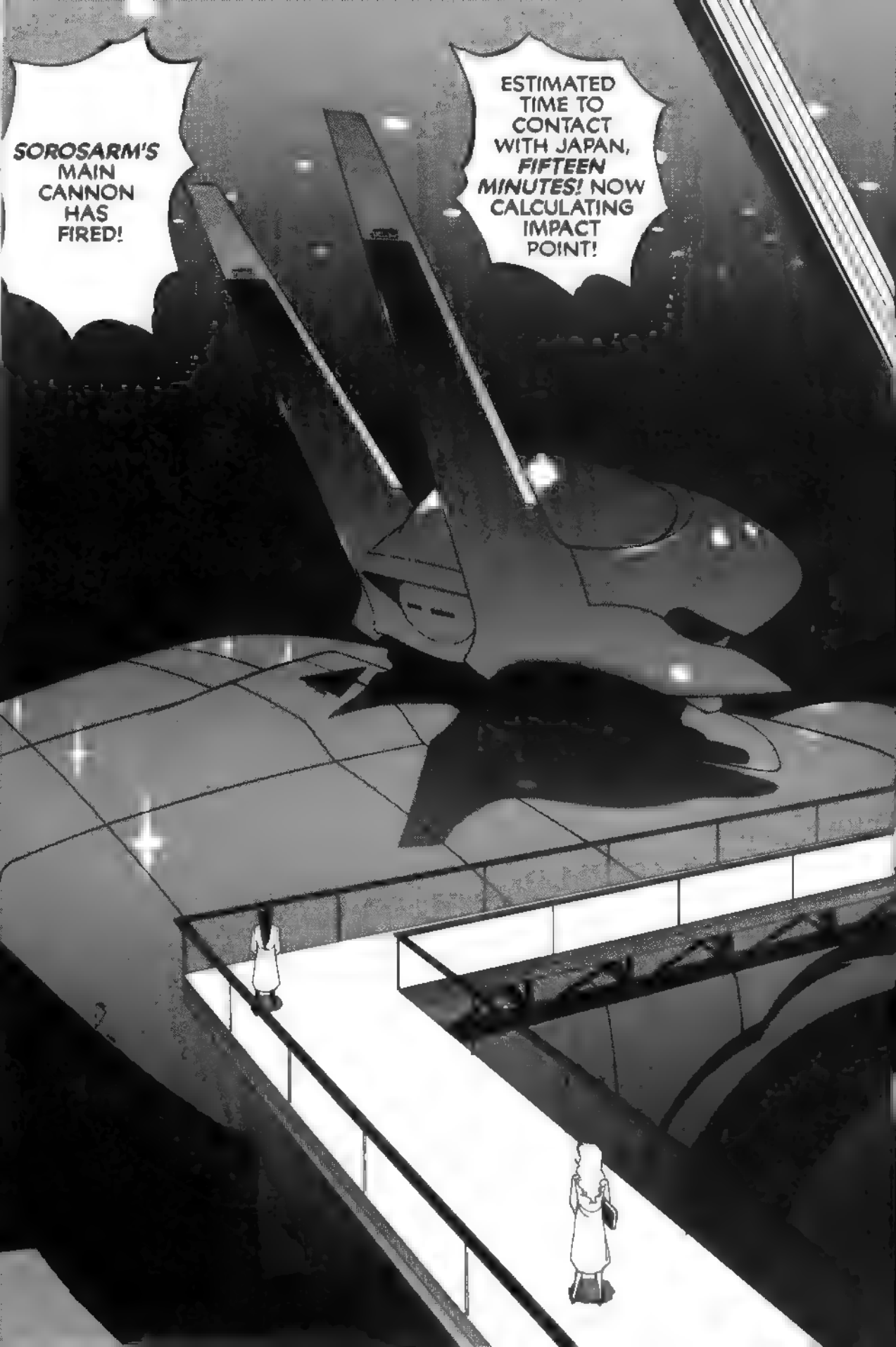
WHY? DO *YOU* KNOW WHO IT IS...?
UM WELL

YOU *MUSTN'T* TELL ANYONE, AKANE... *ANYONE!* NOT YOUR *FRIENDS,* NOT YOUR *PARENTS*... AND ESPECIALLY NOT *ME!*


IF THEY KNEW HIS IDENTITY, THEY'D TAKE *YOU,* YOUR *CLASSMATES,* PERHAPS EVEN THE *ENTIRE REGION* AS HOSTAGES AGAINST HIM...
...AND ONCE THE MILITARY STARTED A *REIGN OF TERROR* HERE, THE POPULATION WOULD TURN AGAINST HIM... ONE PERSON *CAN'T* FIGHT AN ARMY, NO MATTER *HOW* STRONG HE IS...
.....
....!

KRROM

ドカーン
19B


SOROSARM'S MAIN CANNON HAS FIRED!
ESTIMATED TIME TO CONTACT WITH JAPAN, FIFTEEN MINUTES! NOW CALCULATING IMPACT POINT!

EXAXXION FINAL CHECK, COMPLETE!
YES! YES, BY GOD!

THE EXAXXION PROJECT, STAGE TWO! AT LAST!
SHALL WE INITIATE THE LAUNCH SEQUENCE, SIR?
JUST YOU WAIT, HOICHI!
I'LL MAKE YOU THE BIGGEST GODDAMNED HERO THERE EVER WAS!

TO BE CONTINUED...!

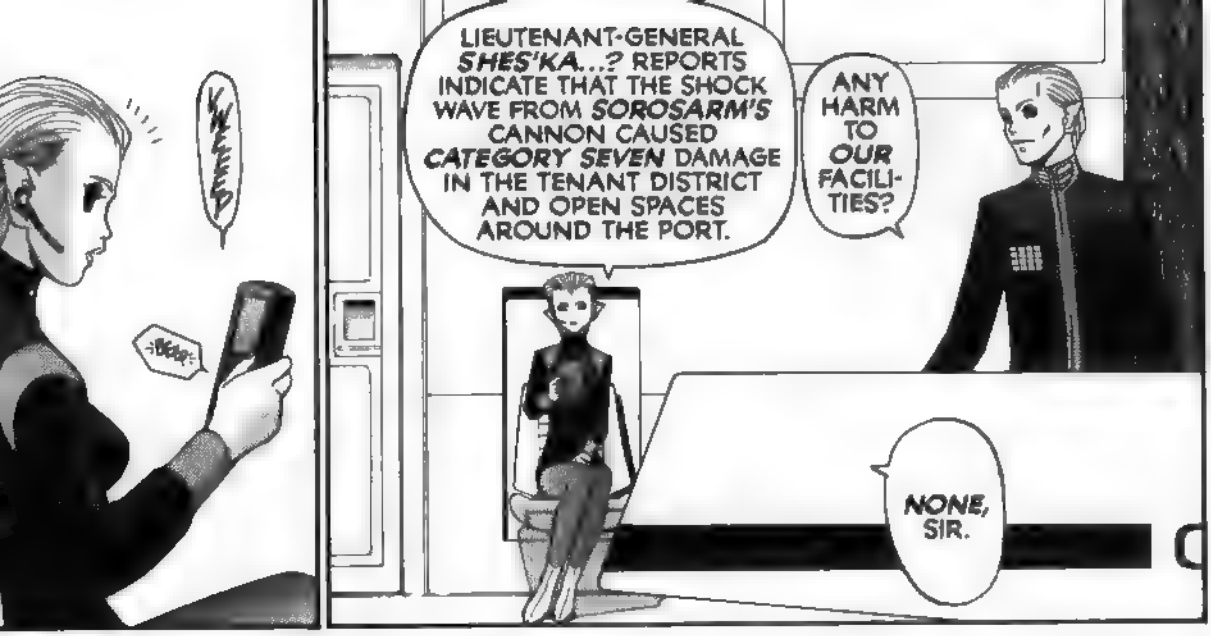
1.4

DID YOU SEE THAT? THE CANNON FIRED--!
THE SHOCK WAVE'S GONNA HIT! EVERYBODY DOWN, NOW!
KSHH
PLNKK
HUH? WE'VE LOST THE SIGNAL FROM PORT-SIDE!
GET AWAY FROM THE WINDOW--
WHOD
GYAA!
SPLCHH

THE...THE SHOCK WAVE OF A SINGLE CANNON SHOT FROM THAT RIOFALDIAN MECH...
...IT'S LITERALLY BLOWN AWAY STRUCTURES-- AND PEOPLE!-- ALL AROUND THE PORT-SIDE AREA!
THE TENANT DISTRICT HAS BEEN HIT ESPECIALLY HARD...
MOST OF THE BUILDINGS SEEM SEVERELY DAMAGED!

HOW COULD THE RIOFALDIANS HARM SO MANY *INNOCENT CIVILIANS,* EVEN IF IT WAS A REAL *WAR?* WHAT KIND OF MONSTERS *ARE* THEY...?!
HRMFF! PEACE-SPOILED LITTLE *WHINERS!*
INCOMING SIGNAL FROM *MASTER HOICHI,* SIR. ♥
GRAND-PA...? YOU CAN *HEAR* ME, RIGHT?
OH! HERE HE COMES ...!
VMMM
WHOA ...!
WHAT'S *UP,* LADDIE?
THOSE BASTARDS JUST *FIRED* THAT THING AT *JAPAN!* YOU KNOW A WAY TO *STOP* IT, DON'T YOU, GRANDPA?
WHEN YOU SAID YOU'D MAKE ME A *REAL HERO,* THIS WAS WHAT YOU *MEANT,* RIGHT? Y'KNOW, *SAVING JAPAN* AND ALL?
HRMM...
WELL, I *DO* KNOW WHERE THAT *CANNON ROUND'S* GOING TO LAND.

ALL RIGHT! THEN WE CAN--
BUT WE'RE NOT GONNA BOTHER TO STOP THIS ATTACK, MY BOY.
HUMANITY'S GOTTA TAKE ONE TO THE GUT, HERE! KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO THESE DAMN PEACE-NIKS!
AND SHOWING 'EM OL' MOUNT FUJI GOING BOOM OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK!
HUH...? M-MOUNT FUJI ...?!
BRING UP THIS MOUNT FUJI ON THE MAIN MONITOR. FULL SCREEN.
SOROSARM CANNON ROUND, FOUR MINUTES TO IMPACT.
EBIS
WE COULDN'T ASK FOR BETTER ENTERTAINMENT. I EXPECT THE BEST PICTURES POSSIBLE... WE'LL NEED THEM FOR PROPAGANDA.
WE'RE DEPLOYING EVERY CAMERA UNDER OUR LOCAL CONTROL, SIR.


WEEED
BEEP!
LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SHES'KA...? REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE SHOCK WAVE FROM SOROSARM'S CANNON CAUSED CATEGORY SEVEN DAMAGE IN THE TENANT DISTRICT AND OPEN SPACES AROUND THE PORT.
ANY HARM TO OUR FACILITIES?
NONE, SIR.

EXCELLENT! WE DIDN'T WASTE GRADE THREE REINFORCED CONSTRUCTION ON EARTH TENANTS, SO OF COURSE THERE'S SEVERE DAMAGE. NOW LET THEM BROADCAST THIS SPECTACLE... LIVE. LET THEM SEE THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEYING US!
YES, SIR!
WEEED

GENERAL! THERE'S BEEN A SECURITY BREACH!
ALARM LEVEL YEL-LOW... NO!
IT'S JUST BEEN UP-GRADED TO RED!
SPAK SPAK SPAK

WHDD
HA! OUR FIREARMS WORK JUST FINE ON THESE GUARDS AND ROBOTS!
WE'RE HITTING THE COMM CENTER NOW!
DEPLOY THAT PATROL ROBOT'S HEAD TO UNLOCK THE DOOR!
YES, SIR!
VWEEE
VWEEE
PING
TAKA TAK TAK
QUICKLY-- LOCK ALL DOORS MANUALLY!
YES, SIR!
KCHAK
SHAKK

LOCK
SHNKK
INERTIA CONTROL FIELD. ON.
KCHNK
SHOOT TO WOUND THE V.I.P.--!
VHMMM

SPAK
SPAK
SPAK
SPAK
!!
K-KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
FWHTT
KCHK
?!

GCHOK
CHAK
FB
AH...
FWHTT

KRAK
FWHT
KTAKK
GENERAL SHES'KA! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ...?
I'M PLEASED TO SEE THAT OUR V.I.P.-ISSUE INERTIAL CONTROL FIELDS FUNCTION RELIABLY, AT LEAST...
THNKK
LIEU-TENANT SHISHI'A ...!

BREIZO!!
N-
NO...
ALERT THE MEDICAL CENTER! WE NEED A CODE TEAM, STAT!!
G... GENERAL SHES'KA...
WH-WHERE'S GENERAL SHES'KA...? WH... WHY IS IT SO D-DARK?!
HE'S SAFE! THE GENERAL'S SAFE, LIEUTENANT SHISHI'A...
GET THE EMERGENCY LIGHTING ON...N-NOW! WH...WHERE IS THE... GENERAL ...?
S-SHE CAN'T HEAR... OR SEE?
GENERAL! ARE YOU OKAY?! P-PLEASE ANSWER ME!!
S... SOMEONE S-SAVE THE GENER-AL...
GHKK
SILENCE HER, PLEASE.
THE NOISE IS RUINING THIS SPLENDID MOMENT. I WOULD PREFER TO OBSERVE IT UNDIS-TRACTED.
FMPP

TWO MINUTES TO IMPACT... AH.
SECOND-LIEUTENANT FIOT'TS! RETURN TO YOUR STATION AND OBSERVE THIS MAGNIFICENT SPECTACLE.
Y-YES... G-GENER-AL...
YES, SIR!
GIVE ME AN IMMEDIATE HEADCOUNT ON THAT U.N. SECURITY SWAT TEAM. ARE ALL OF THEM ACCOUNTED FOR?
FOUR KILLED HERE BY TERMINAL DRONE UNIT ZERO-THREE, SIR...
...AND SIX MORE KILLED OUTSIDE THE LOCKED DOORS BY UNITS TWENTY-TWO AND TWENTY-FIVE.
THEY WERE THE LAST ARMED EARTH FORCES ON THE ELEVATOR BASE FACILITY, SIR.
AHH ...?!
OH, SHES'KA... YOUR T-TOUCH IS SO GENTLE...SO TENDER...
B... BREIZO...
I... I'M SO... SO HONOR-ED... .....
ONE MINUTE TO GO... SPLENDID! NO PROBLEMS OF ANY CONSE-QUENCE.

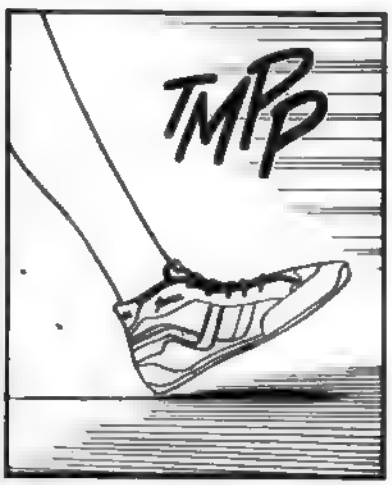
DAMN, GRANDPA! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE SO FREAKIN' COLD-HEARTED ...!
OH, MY.
MISS AKANE'S BROUGHT A FRIEND ...!

HUH?
FSSHH

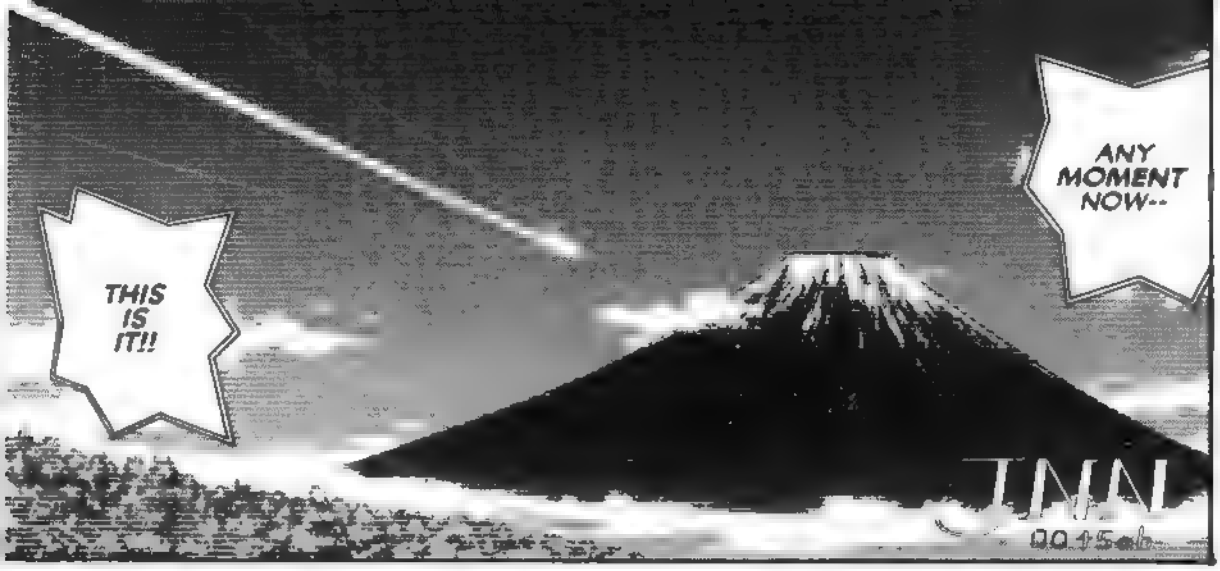
KIMIKO! HURRY! IT'S GONNA HIT!
W-WAIT UP, AKANE!

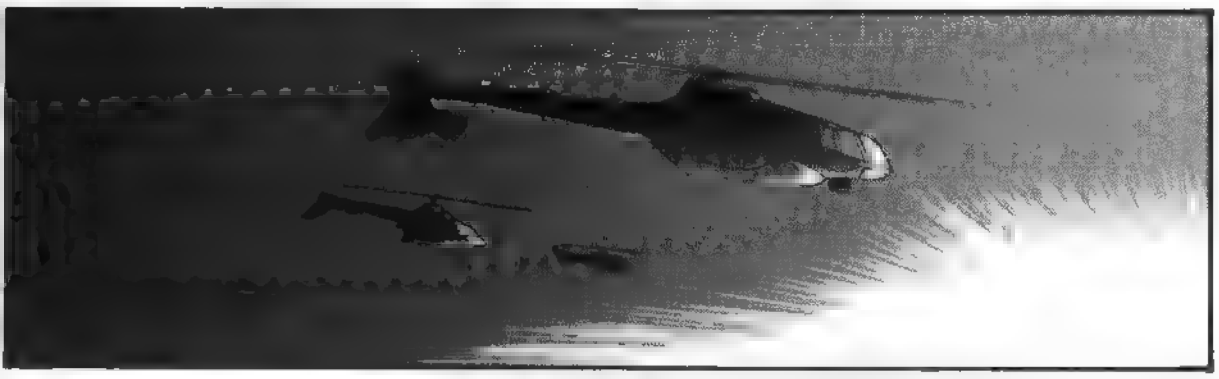
KCHNKK

AH...? AHH ?!
OH, MY, MY, MY! THE INFAMOUS COUPLE...OUT WATCHING THE ROMANTIC SIGHT OF MOUNT FUJI EXPLOD-ING!
1-E HINO


TMPD

NOW, YOU LISTEN, GUN!
!
WE NEED TO TALK! MEET ME IN THE MEDIA ROOM, PLAYBOY... AFTER I DOCUMENT THE FUJI IMPACT!
UM...UH, SURE. BUT HOW THE HELL ARE YOU GONNA SEE MOUNT FUJI FROM HERE...?
WE DON'T HAVE A DIRECT VIEW, BUT WE CAN RECORD THE IMPACT FLASH.
I GUESS SO...NO ONE ELSE CAME UP TO WATCH, HUH?
OH, THEY EVACUATED EVERYONE TO THE EARTH-QUAKE SHELTER.
BUT ME AND AKANE SNUCK OUT THE BACK!
A TRUE JOURNALIST ALWAYS PUTS THE STORY AHEAD OF SAFETY, YOU SEE...!
SHINK
1-E
GET READY, AKANE!
00:02
FIVE SECONDS TO ESTIMATED IMPACT! THREE... TWO... ONE...


THIS IS IT!!
ANY MOMENT NOW--



TH-THERE IT IS--!
I-E HINO

THE SHOCK WAVE IS APPROACHING. SEISMIC CONTACT IN THREE SECONDS.
HUH?
HAHH?
FHWHAM
GYE EK!
WHOA ?!
BRMBBB
EEK-!
DAMN. THEY REALLY DID IT!

WHOOM
FFAAAA
CRASHHH

H-HOLY SHIT!!
THEY USED A NUKE?
RMBBB
OH, NO. THAT WAS A SIMPLE MASS-IMPACT CANNON ROUND.
WHSHHHHH
ALBEIT AN ENORMOUS ONE--1143mm IN DIAMETER, TRAVELING AT APPROXIMATELY ELEVEN MILES PER SECOND.
THE CANNON IS A HYBRID, COMBINING CHEMICAL PROPELLANT AND MAGNETIC ACCELERATION TO LAUNCH ITS ROUND.
SHHHHHHH
ONCE A ROUND IS FIRED, IT CAN'T BE AFFECTED BY ELECTRONIC COUNTER-MEASURES... AT LEAST TO ANY SIGNIFICANT DEGREE.
HOWA.H.S
SOROSARM FIRES AN INERTIALLY-COMPENSATED MASS PROJECTILE CONTAINING A PAYLOAD OF FIVE CUBIC MICROMETERS OF NEUTRONIUM, WEIGHING APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF MILLION TONS.
AKANE AND KIMIKO...! ARE THEY OKAY...?
HEARTBEAT, RESPIRATION AND EKG ARE ALL NORMAL.
THE SHOCK WAVE MERELY KNOCKED THEM UNCONSCIOUS.

SO WHAT THE *HELL* AM I SUPPOSED TO *DO*?!
WHAT CAN THIS DAMN *SUIT* POSSIBLY DO AGAINST *THAT* KIND OF... *MONSTER*?!
OH, WITH JUST *THIS*... MY *BODY*... I CAN MAKE YOU A *MAN*...
...WHO CAN DO *ALMOST ANY-THING*, MASTER HOICHI!

TO BE CONTINUED...!

1.5
CANNON GOD EXAXION: STAGE 1.5

WITH... YOUR BODY...? UH, ISAKA... DON'T TELL ME...
...YOU'RE PRO-GRAMMED FOR THAT, TOO...?
OH, I AM CAPABLE OF CARNAL RELATIONS WITH YOU, IF YOU SO DESIRE...
...BUT I'M REFERRING TO SOME-THING ELSE, AT THE MOMENT ...!
NNNF
WHOO

WHA--
?!!
SHIINGG
FSHHHH
KCHINGG
WHOSH

VRMMM
TRANSFOR-MATION *COMPLETE.*
VRMMMM
VRMMM
VRMMM
FSHHH
"*TRANSFOR-MATION,*" MY ASS! YOU CAN JUST...JUST MAGICALLY *GROW* THIS BIG...?
OH, MY *MASS* REMAINS CONSTANT, MASTER HOICHI. I'M *STILL* THREE HUNDRED FORTY FIVE POINT FOUR POUNDS.
HUH? YOU WEIGH *THREE HUNDRED* POUNDS...? NO *WAY...!*
MY *DEFAULT HUMANOID FORM* CONTAINS ADEQUATE MATERIAL STOCKS FOR ANY *NUMBER* OF RECONFIGURATIONS. MY CHEST IS A *MASS RESERVOIR,* YOU SEE, NOT MERELY AN EXAGGERATED *SECONDARY SEXUAL CHARAC-TERISTIC.*
VREEE
VRMMM

NOW, CLIMB ABOARD ME, PLEASE ...!
CLIMB ABOARD...? ARE WE GOING SOME-WHERE?
YOU NEED TO VIEW THE EFFECTS OF THE RIOFALDIANS' CANNONFIRE FOR YOURSELF, MASTER HOICHI...
...TO OBSERVE WHAT DAMAGE OCCURRED WHERE...AND MONITOR MILITARY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.
SO, PLEASE ACTIVATE YOUR GUNNER SUIT AND GET ON ME, NOW! WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE, BEFORE...
WHSHH
JUST HOLD ON...! SO CAN I, LIKE, DO SOME RESCUE WORK, OR SOMETHING FRICKIN' HEROIC?
HEY, GRANDPA! I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME!
YOU SAID YOU'D MAKE ME A REAL GODDAMN HERO, REMEMBER?
WE'VE GOTTA DO SOMETHING TO STOP 'EM BEFORE THEY FIRE ANOTHER CANNON ROUND, DAMN IT...!
THERE WON'T BE AN ADDITIONAL SHOT, MY BOY. NOT UNTIL THEY HAVE ANOTHER POINT TO MAKE.
NOW-- GO LEARN ABOUT YOUR ENEMY, ALL RIGHT?
GUNNER-S

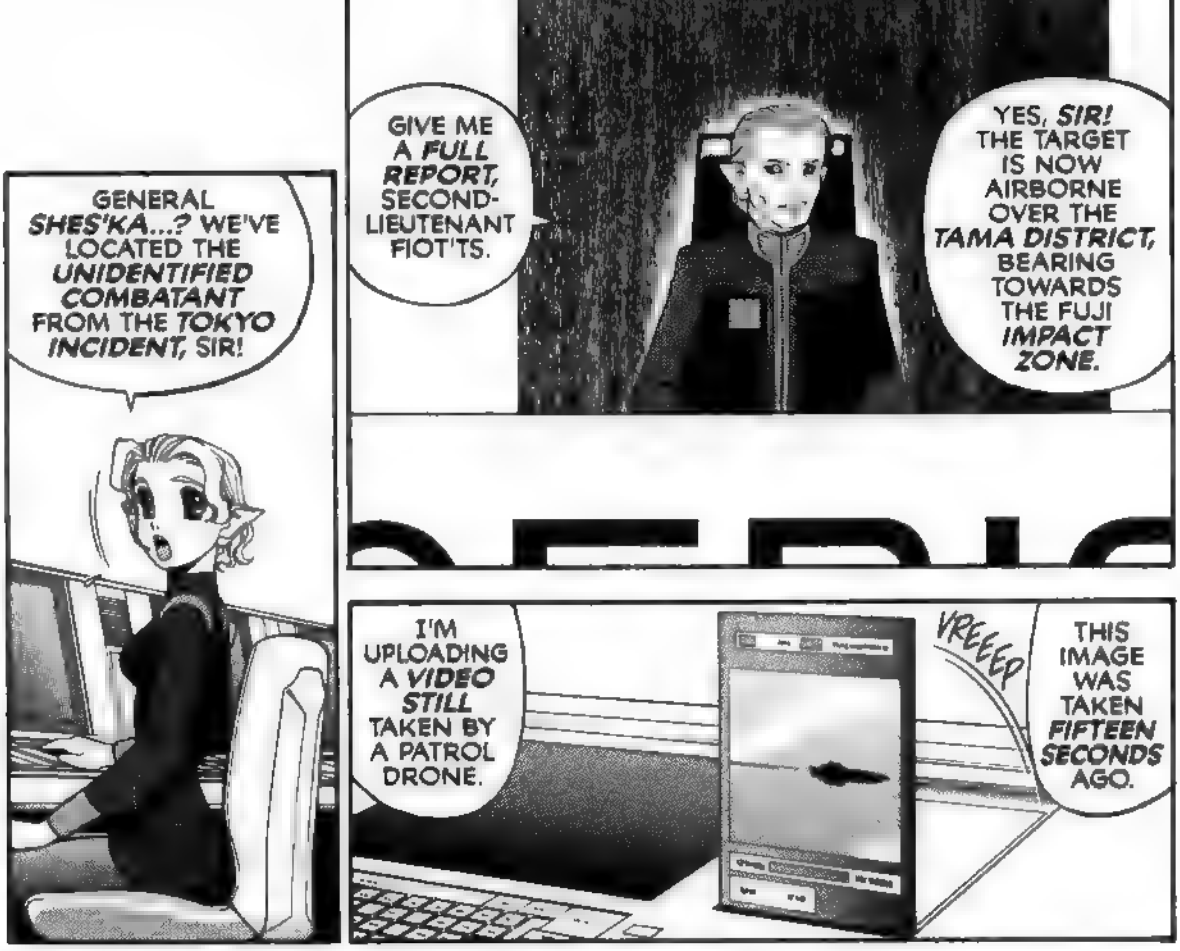
.....
.....
.....
....!
TRUST ME, HOICHI!
IT ALL SEEMS... UNBELIEV-ABLE...
..LIKE A SCENE FROM AN OLD WAR MOVIE...
..YET ALL THE BODY BAGS YOU SEE HERE CONTAIN HUMAN CORPSES.
THERE MUST BE THIRTY OR MORE, IN THIS ROOM ALONE...!
THE ELEVATOR BASE HOSPITAL IS OVERFLOWING WITH CASUALTIES... EVEN THIS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A TEMPORARY MORGUE.
AN APPALLING PERCENTAGE OF BYSTANDERS AT OUTDOOR EXHIBITS AND IN THE TENANT HOUSING DISTRICT WERE CRITICALLY INJURED OR KILLED OUTRIGHT...!

WHILE WE'VE BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION TO *RESUME BROADCASTING*, THERE IS *STILL* NO OFFICIAL COMMENT FROM THE RIOFALDIAN AUTHORITIES.
WE'LL REPORT ON NEW DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY HAPPEN... AND NOW, BACK TO OUR TEAM IN THE *MOUNT FUJI BLAST ZONE*.
PRESS
VREEE
KCHK
.....
. . . .
THE RIOFALDIANS ARE JUST *USING* US FOR *TERROR PROPAGANDA*, AREN'T THEY...?
WELL, YEAH, THAT'S WHY THEY LIFTED THE *BAN*... BUT, HELL, WE'RE STILL GETTING THE *TRUTH* OUT, RIGHT?
EVEN IF THE U.N. AND THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT *SURRENDER*, THE MILITARY'S *HAWKS* MIGHT STILL REVOLT...
. AND THE RIOFALDIANS MIGHT END UP FIRING THAT CANNON *AGAIN!*
THEN... SHOULD WE PULL OUR *OUTDOOR CAMERA CREWS* BACK INSIDE...?
DINGG
TELEPHONE SERVICE HAS BEEN RESTORED.
YOU MAY NOW MAKE *OUTGOING CALLS* AT ANY TIME.
UM... I'D LIKE TO MAKE A *PERSONAL CALL*...
WHAT, TO SEE IF YOUR *FAMILY'S* OKAY? GO RIGHT AHEAD, *HINO*.
I'LL TRY TO REACH *HQ*...
THANKS ...!
OKAY... LET'S TRY *AKANE*, FIRST...

BREEP BREEP
VRMMM
BREEP
...MODELED ON A MOTOR-CYCLE'S CONTROLS, YOU SEE
THE LEFT HAND GRIP TWISTS FOR ACCELERATION, WHILE THE LEFT LEVER CONTROLS DECELERA-TION.
WHAT DO THE FOOT PEDALS DO?
YOU CAN DEPRESS EITHER OF THEM TO DESCEND VERTICALLY, AND RAISE EITHER PEDAL TO ASCEND BUT IT'S FASTER TO CLIMB OR DIVE BY FORWARD FLIGHT.
JUST PULL THE HANDLEBARS BACK TO RAISE MY NOSE, PUSH THEM DOWN TO LOWER IT
YOU CAN ALSO USE VOICE COMMAND INPUT...BUT MANUAL MODE IS FASTER, AND OVERRIDES VOICE MODE.
THE RIGHT LEVER ENGAGES THRUST-VECTORING, FOR EVASIVE MANEUVERS AND THE LIKE
THE RIGHT THUMB SWITCHES ACTIVATE THE HIGH-INTENSITY LIGHTS AND CRUISE CONTROL

I'LL HELP YOU, AT FIRST...
WH- WHOA...!
WAIT...!
VREEE
...BUT YOU'LL GET USED TO THIS, I PROMISE!
SHOOM
UUU-
WAA--!

FSHOOM
SHAWLS
GUN... HOICHI... WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS...?
BREEP
YOU CAN'T JUST GO TO WAR WITH THEM... YOU'LL DIE!
DON'T DO IT... PLEASE!
♪BREEP♪
SFOOOOM
VMMMMM
BWEEE?


GENERAL SHES'KA...? WE'VE LOCATED THE UNIDENTIFIED COMBATANT FROM THE TOKYO INCIDENT, SIR!
GIVE ME A FULL REPORT, SECOND-LIEUTENANT FIOT'TS.
YES, SIR! THE TARGET IS NOW AIRBORNE OVER THE TAMA DISTRICT, BEARING TOWARDS THE FUJI IMPACT ZONE.
I'M UPLOADING A VIDEO STILL TAKEN BY A PATROL DRONE.
VREEEP
THIS IMAGE WAS TAKEN FIFTEEN SECONDS AGO.

INTERCEPT AND APPREHEND HIM. DEAD OR ALIVE.
AND ORDER THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO CARRY OUT THE MISSION...

TH... THIS IS...
...FREAKIN' AWESOME!

FSSSH
ALL THE WAY ABOVE THE CLOUDS, IN JUST SECONDS ...!
HA! YOU CAN KISS MY ASS, YA ALIEN BASTARDS!
DON'T GET CARELESS, HOICHI! BOGEY AT THREE O' CLOCK
HUH ..?
VORRRP
GYAAA!

J-JEEZ! WE CAN BEND LASER BEAMS, TOO...?
OF COURSE, MASTER HOICHI...! NOW, I SUGGEST THAT YOU RETURN FIRE WITH YOUR GUN.
I'M ENTIRELY UN-ARMED, YOU SEE ..
WHSH
KCHAK
LEMME AT 'EM! GUN SET!
SPAK
SPAK
WH-KOM

YEAH! I DID IT!
EXAIL
OH, SHIT--!
空自衛隊
VWHTT

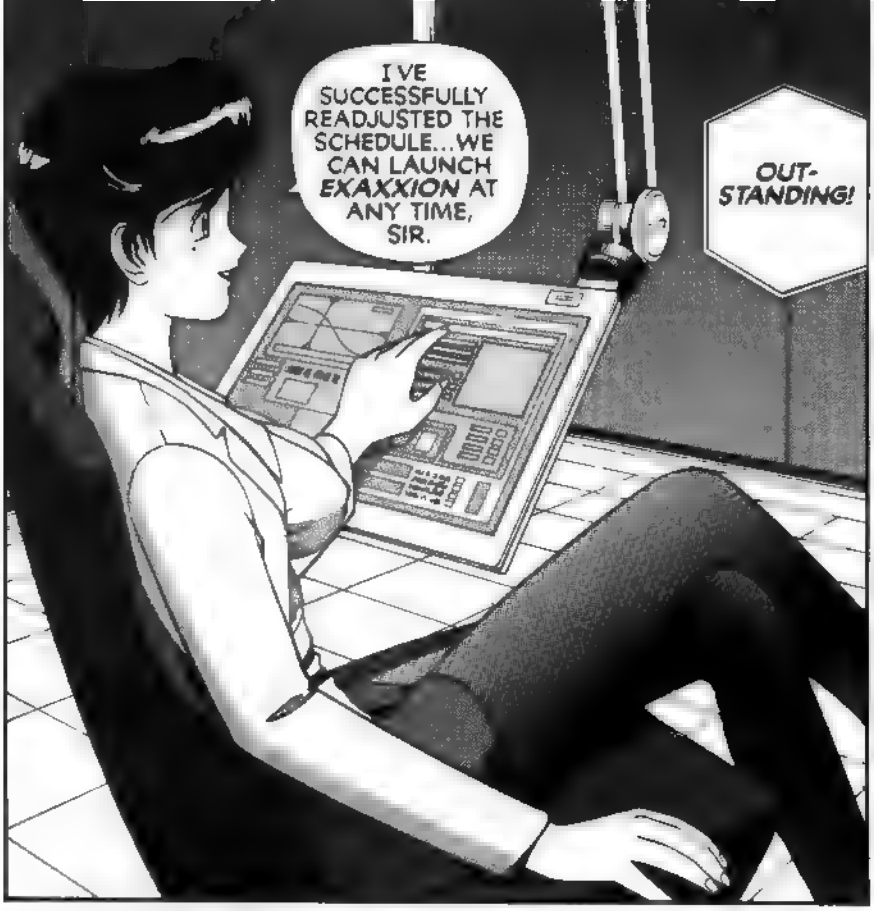
SIGN JAPANESE AIR SELF-DEFENSE FORCE

CHOOM
IF YOU WANT TO BE A HERO, DON'T SHOOT BACK. JUST ENDURE.
AW, SHIT! THIS HERO BUSINESS SUCKS!!

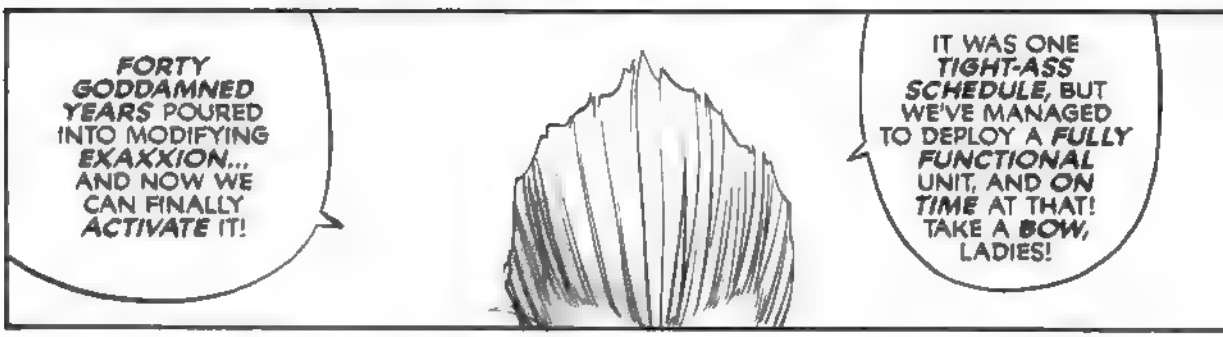
MASTER HOICHI IS UNDER ATTACK FROM THE SDF, SIR!
HE'S GOT HIS GUNNER SUIT AND ISAKA. THEY CAN'T DO MUCH TO HIM.
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY!

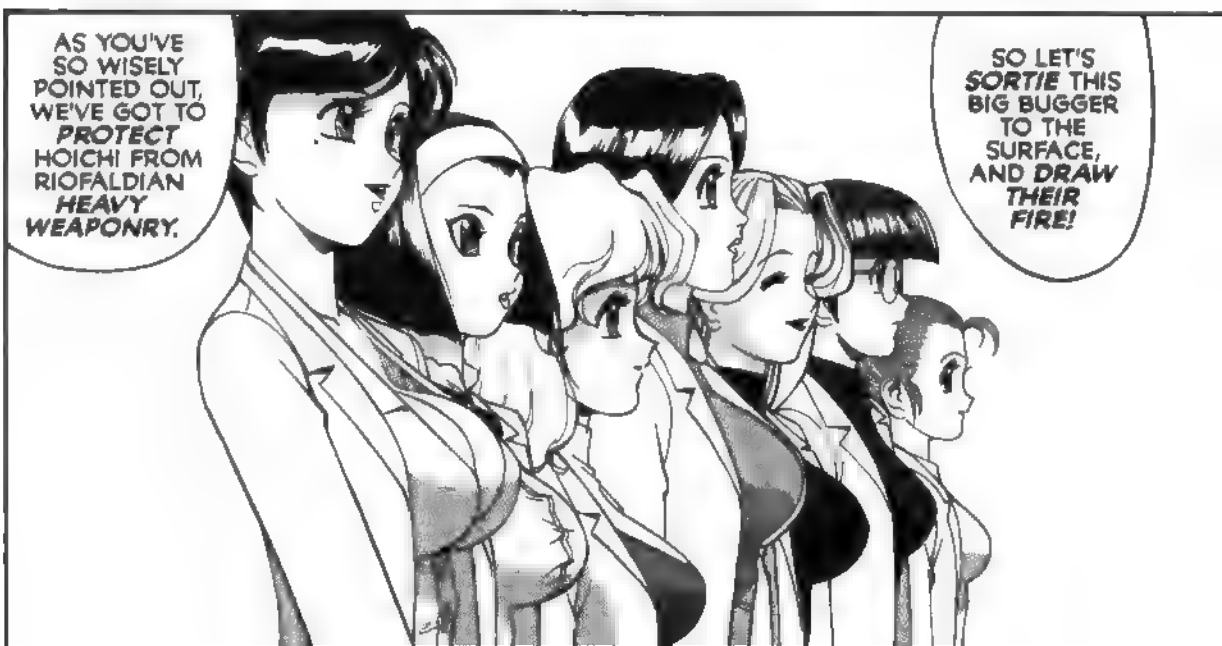
ARE YOU SURE, SIR...? 30mm ROUNDS ARE ONE THING, BUT AN ARMOR-PIERCING ANTI-TANK MISSILE? OR AN ALIEN MASS DRIVER PROJECTILE.. ?
IT'S TRUE! ISAKA IS ONLY MARGINALLY MORE HARDENED THAN THE GUNNER SUIT, DOCTOR.
KREEK

...AND THEY'LL SURELY USE A MASS DRIVER FOR THEIR NEXT ATTACK ...!
I KNOW ALL THAT, DAMN IT!
MISS TANEGA-SHIMA ...?
YES, SIR!


I'VE SUCCESSFULLY READJUSTED THE SCHEDULE...WE CAN LAUNCH *EXAXXION* AT ANY TIME, SIR.
OUT-STANDING!

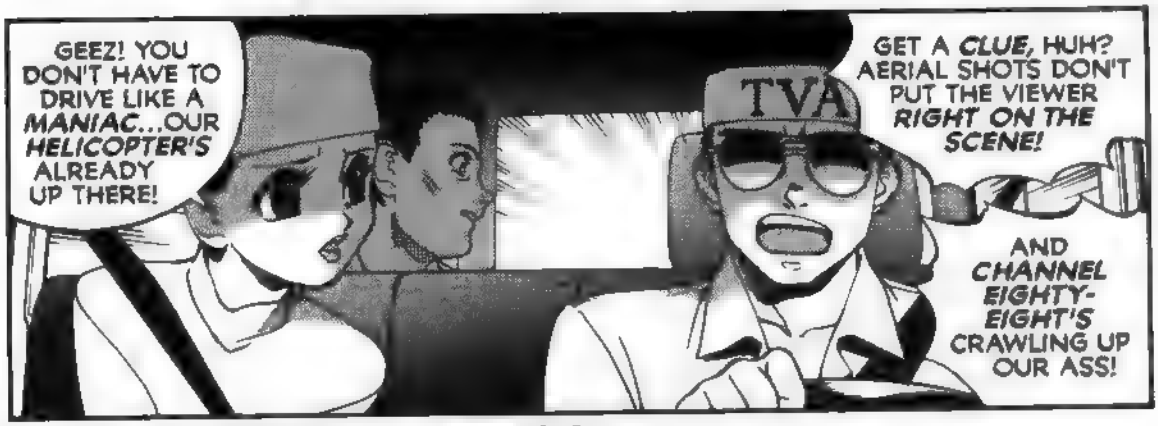
EVERY-BODY, *LINE UP!*
THARP


FORTY GODDAMNED YEARS POURED INTO MODIFYING ***EXAXXION...*** AND NOW WE CAN FINALLY ***ACTIVATE*** IT!
IT WAS ONE ***TIGHT-ASS SCHEDULE,*** BUT WE'VE MANAGED TO DEPLOY A ***FULLY FUNCTIONAL*** UNIT, AND ***ON TIME*** AT THAT! TAKE A ***BOW,*** LADIES!


AS YOU'VE SO WISELY POINTED OUT, WE'VE GOT TO ***PROTECT*** HOICHI FROM RIOFALDIAN ***HEAVY WEAPONRY.***
SO LET'S ***SORTIE*** THIS BIG BUGGER TO THE SURFACE, AND ***DRAW THEIR FIRE!***

COMMENCE EXAXXION LAUNCH SEQUENCE! OPEN THE MAIN DOOR, LADIES!
YES, SIR!
WHEE! FINALLY!♪
BOINGG BOINGG
GCHNK
RMBB RMBB RMBB RMBB
TO BE CONTINUED...!

FASTER, DAMN IT!
WE'VE GOTTA BE THE FIRST NETWORK TO BROADCAST LIVE FROM THE IMPACT ZONE!
TVA

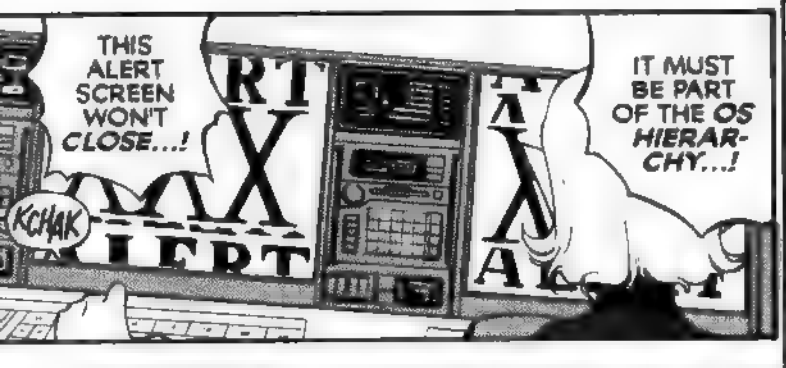

GEEZ! YOU DON'T HAVE TO DRIVE LIKE A MANIAC...OUR HELICOPTER'S ALREADY UP THERE!
TVA
GET A CLUE, HUH? AERIAL SHOTS DON'T PUT THE VIEWER RIGHT ON THE SCENE!
AND CHANNEL EIGHTY-EIGHT'S CRAWLING UP OUR ASS!

RMBB
RMBB
HUH --?!
SKRAKK
WHAT THE HELL--?!
SKREEK
TVA

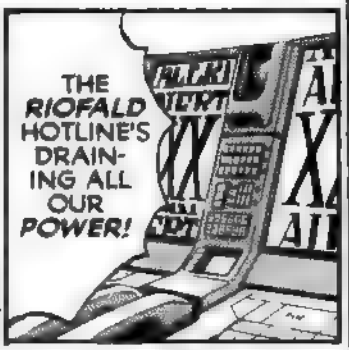
RMBB RMBB RMBB
SKREEEK
KTHNKK
OPENING SEQUENCE PROCEEDING OPTIMALLY, MASTER KANO.
RETRACT THE MAINTE-NANCE GANTRY, LADIES.
WHOOSH
SPANGG
SPANGG

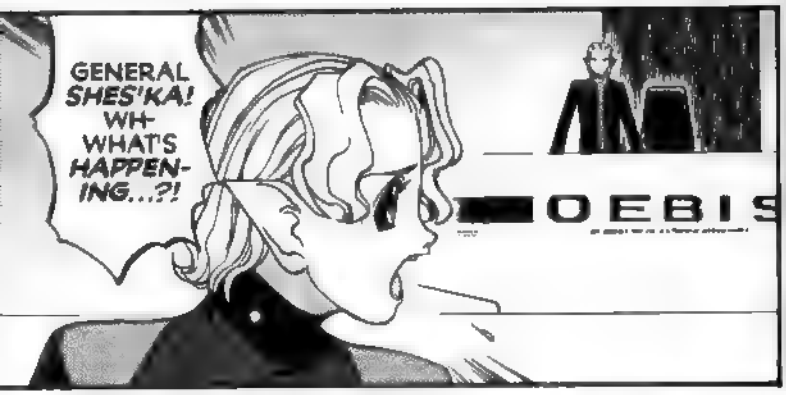
INITIATE ELEVATION SEQUENCE.
SPIN UP EXAXXION MAIN GENERATOR!
STARTER ENGINE AXIAL VELOCITY STEADY...
STATUS, GREEN! WE HAVE MAIN GENERATOR SPEED, DOCTOR!
WHAM!
4

BWEEE BWEEE BWEEF
WHAT?! NOT... NOT THAT ALARM ...!
THIS CAN'T BE...!
BREEP!
HAHH? WHAT'S THAT ...?
HAS ANYONE EVER SEEN THIS ALERT STATUS BEFORE?!
?


THIS ALERT SCREEN WON'T CLOSE...!
KCHAK
IT MUST BE PART OF THE OS HIERARCHY...!

IT'S OVER-RIDING ALL PROGRAMS... HUH?
THE HOTLINES TO THE ORBITAL FLAGSHIP AND THE HOMEWORLD JUST CONNECTED AUTOMATICALLY!


THE RIOFALD HOTLINE'S DRAINING ALL OUR POWER!

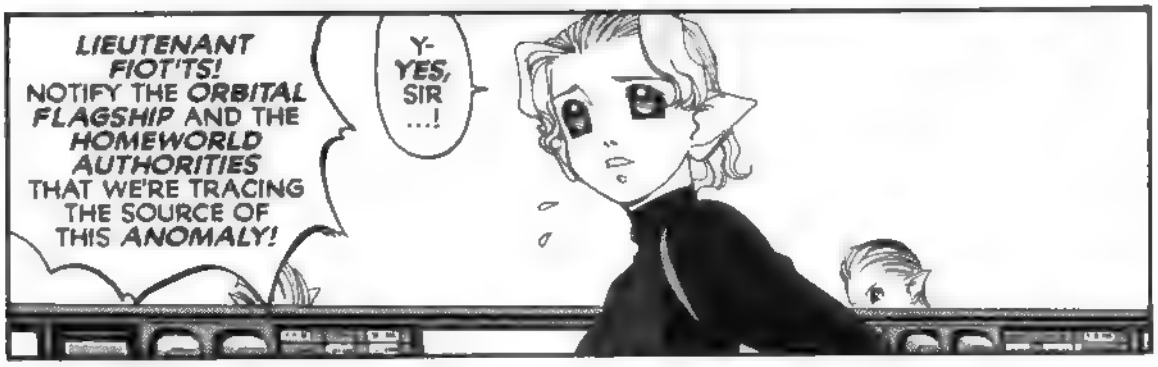

GENERAL SHES'KA! WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING...?!

A...A RA'UN META'AR* ALERT ...?
I'VE HEARD ABOUT THEM... BUT I NEVER BELIEVED I'D SEE ONE...
* Riofaldian for "XXX" RA'UN = three, META'AR = X.

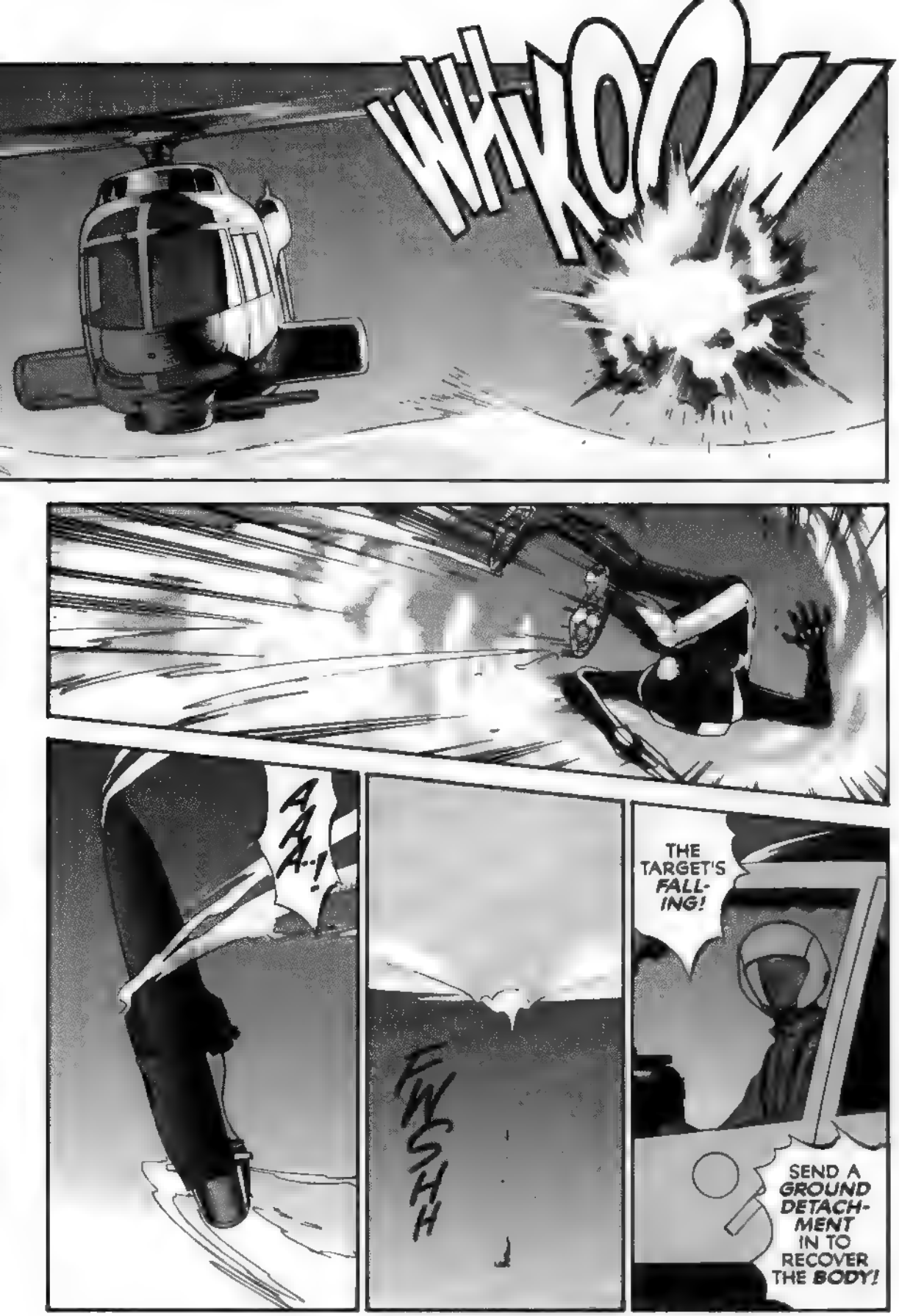
!!

KCHAK
BREEP!
THMP
SBT.

XXX ALERT
ATTENTION! I'M OFFICIALLY CANCELING THIS ALERT! ALL PERSONNEL RETURN TO NORMAL OPERATIONS STATUS!
IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT IT WAS SIMPLY THE RESULT OF A HUMAN ATTEMPT TO HACK INTO OUR SYSTEMS!


LIEUTENANT FIOT'TS! NOTIFY THE ORBITAL FLAGSHIP AND THE HOMEWORLD AUTHORITIES THAT WE'RE TRACING THE SOURCE OF THIS ANOMALY!
Y-YES, SIR ...!

THWK


WHOOSH
AAA..!
FWSHH
THE TARGET'S FALL-ING!
SEND A GROUND DETACH-MENT IN TO RECOVER THE BODY!

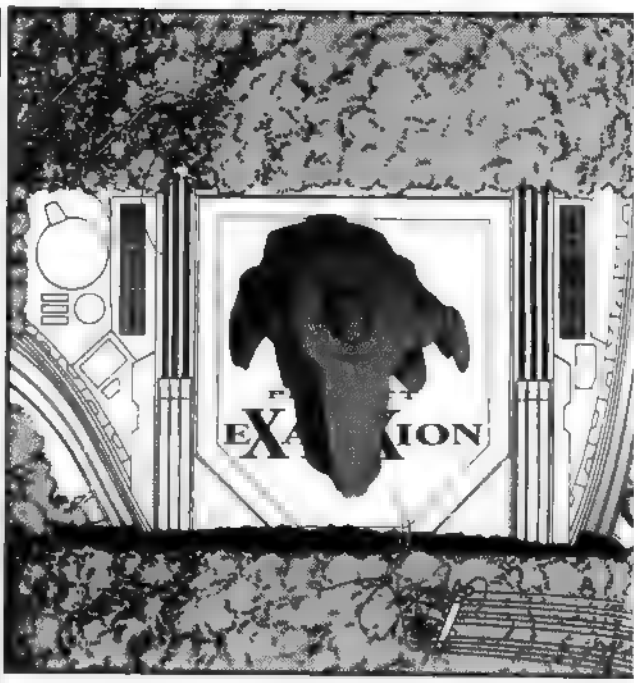
ISAKAAA!
DO SOME-THING, DAMN IT!
MASTER HOICHI--!
EXAXXION ELEVATION SEQUENCE COMPLETED, DOCTOR!

KSHANGG
PEAT

EXAXXION

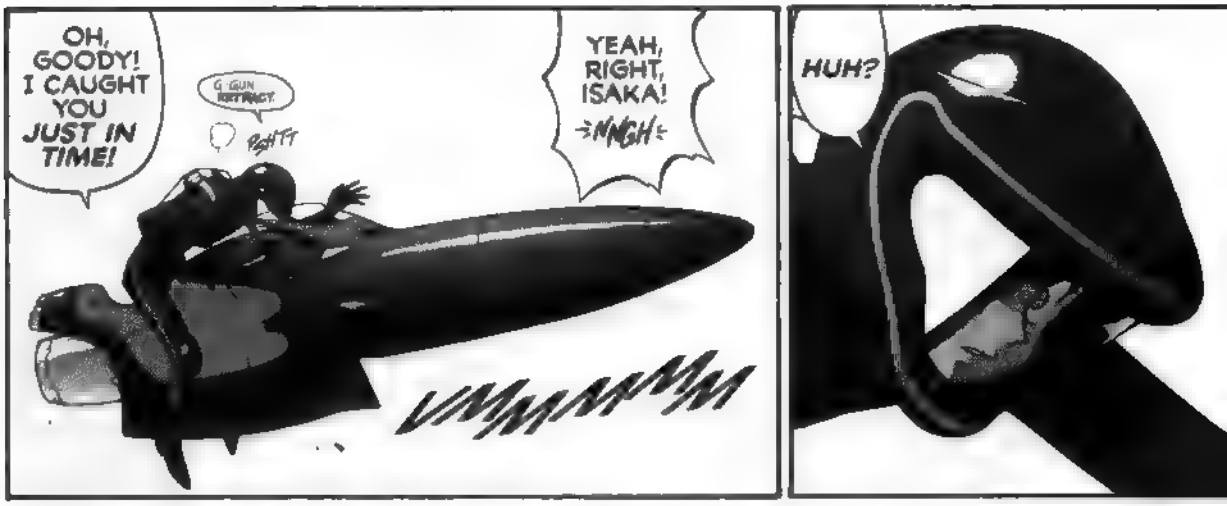
RMBBRMBBRMBBRMBB
PROJECT

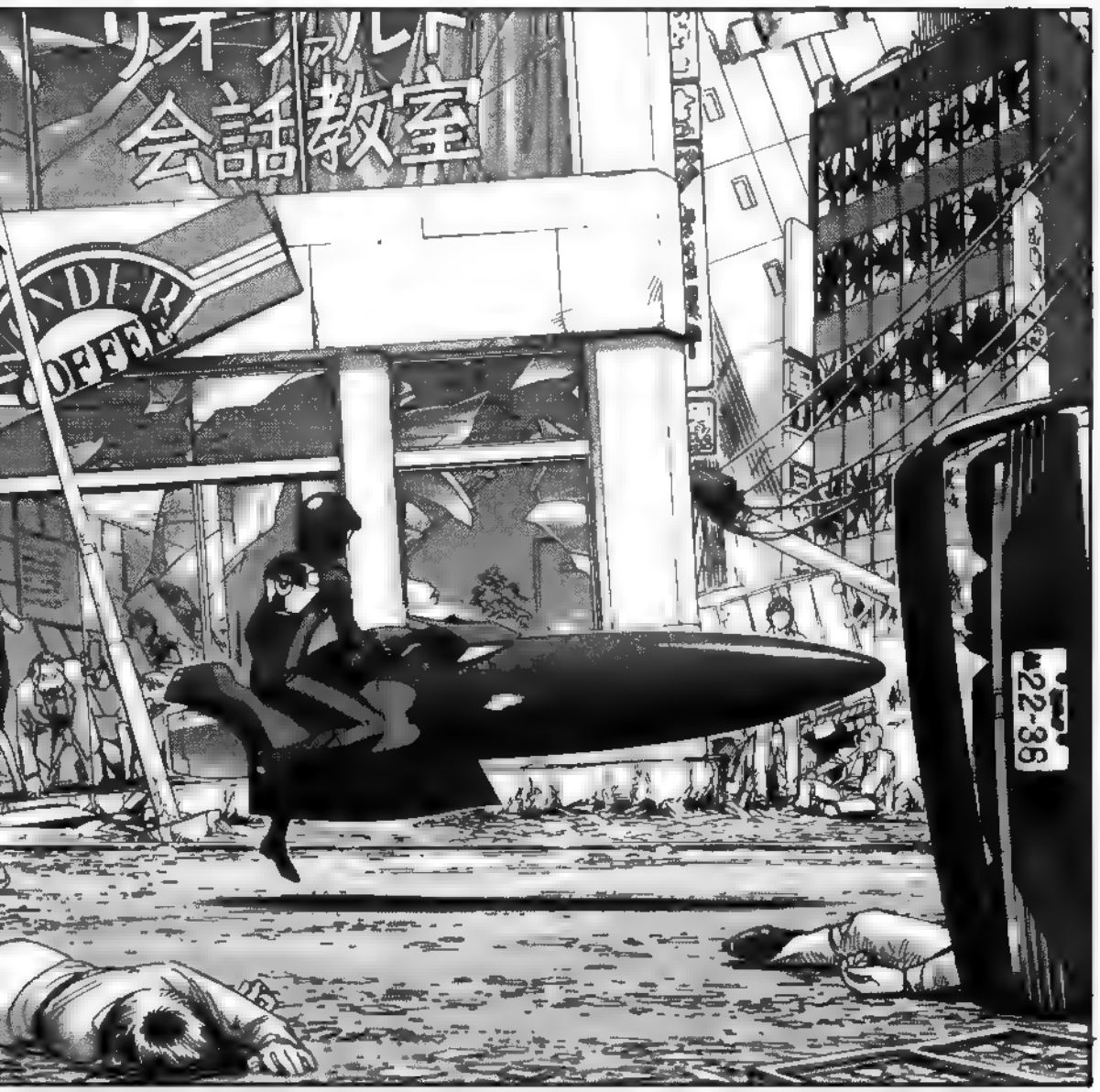
OH.



FWMPP
GENERAL SHES'KA...?! THAT...THAT ROBOT... HOW CAN IT BE...?
THE HUMANS AREN'T TECHNO-LOGICALLY ADVANCED ENOUGH TO BUILD ONE ON THIS SCALE!
ARE THEY ?
INCRED-IBLE ...!
AN XXX UNIT, ON THIS MISERABLE PLANET ...!
HEH.
HEH, HEH...
HA, HA, HA...
AH, HA HA HA HA...!
BWA HA HA HA HA HA!

WHSSH
PREPARE SOROSARM'S CANNON FOR FIRING!
AND THIS TIME, LOAD A HYPER-PENETRATOR ROUND!
KLANG
KLUNKK


OH, GOODY! I CAUGHT YOU JUST IN TIME!
G. GUN RETRACT
RGHTT
YEAH, RIGHT, ISAKA!
→NNGH←
HUH?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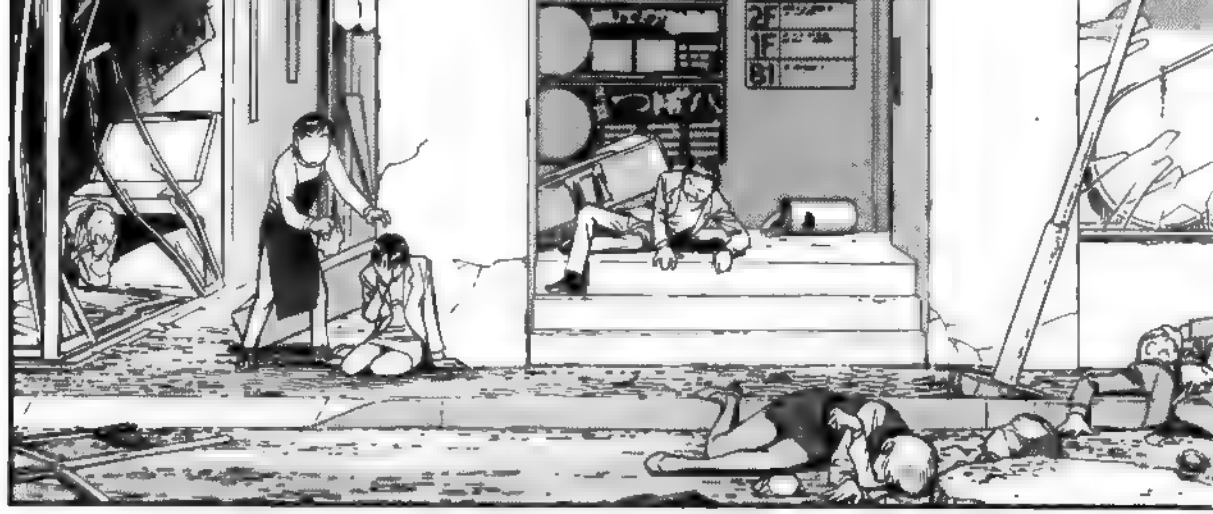
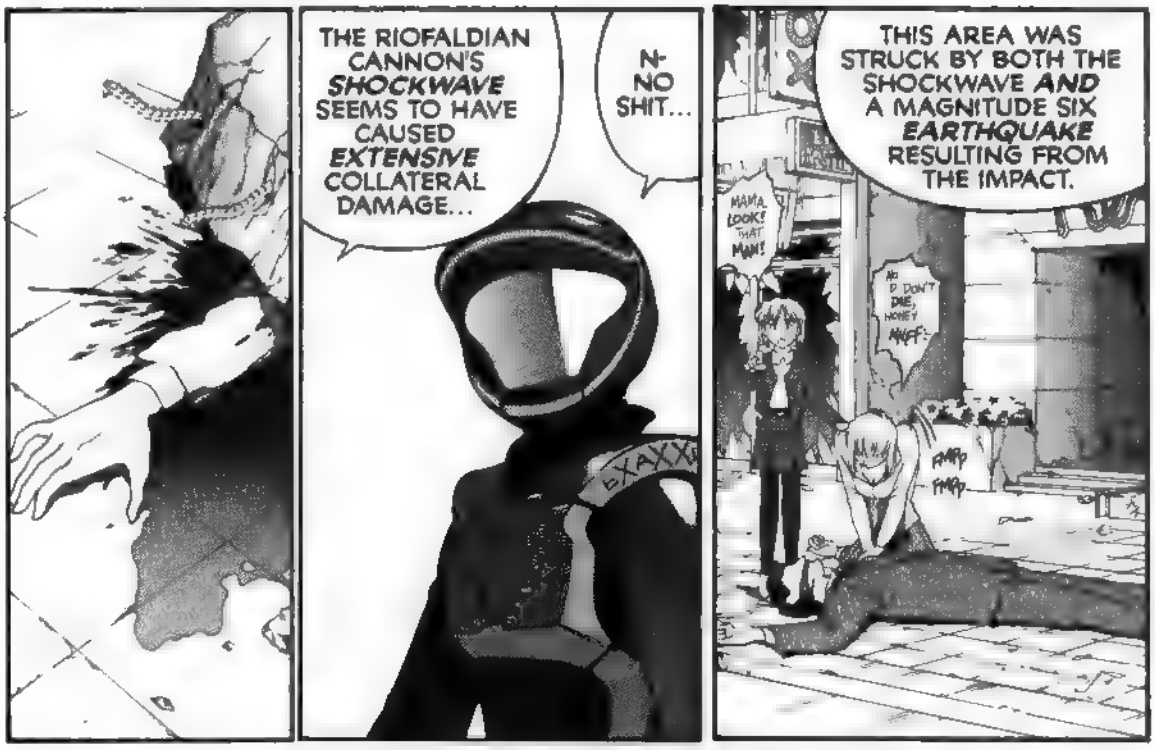
会話教室
22-36

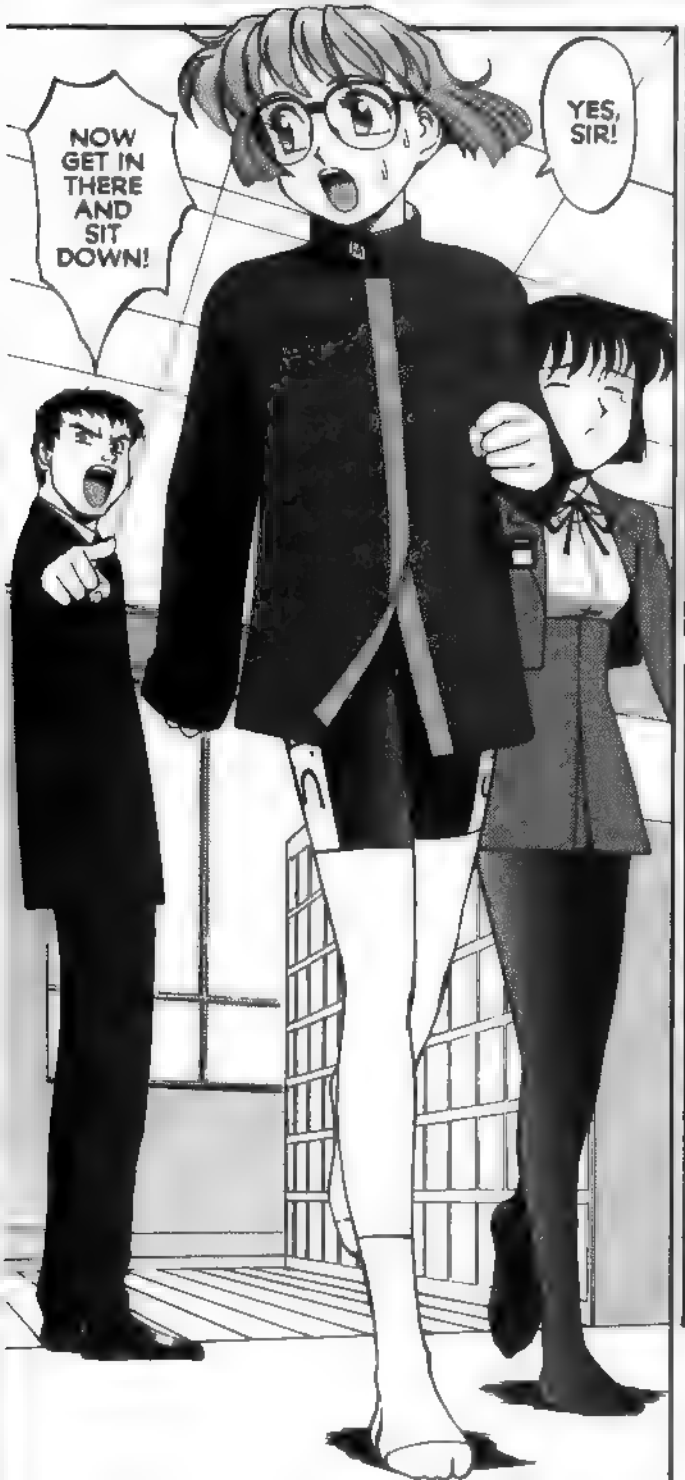

2F
1F
B1

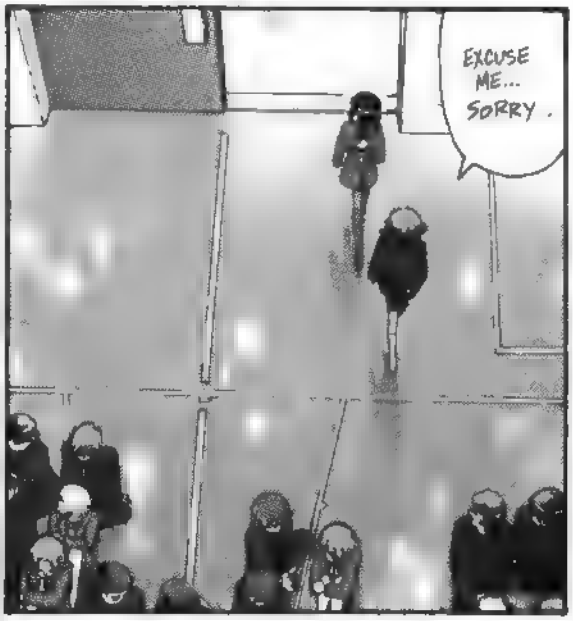

THE RIOFALDIAN CANNON'S *SHOCKWAVE* SEEMS TO HAVE CAUSED *EXTENSIVE* COLLATERAL DAMAGE...
N- NO SHIT...
THIS AREA WAS STRUCK BY BOTH THE SHOCKWAVE *AND* A MAGNITUDE SIX *EARTHQUAKE* RESULTING FROM THE IMPACT.
MAMA, LOOK! THAT MAN!
NO D DON'T DIE, HONEY
AHHH!
AHHH
AHHH

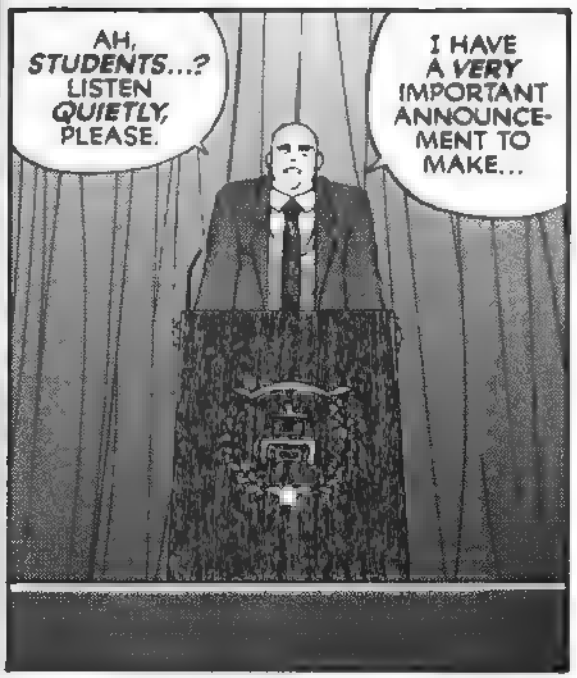
DAMN! HOW THE HELL *FAR BACK* ARE WE FROM THE *IMPACT SITE...?*
APPROXI-MATELY *THIRTY MILES,* MASTER HOICHI.
AND THE DAMAGE IS STILL *THIS BAD ...?!*

UM...E-EXCUSE ME, MISTER ...?
Y-YOUR MOTOR-CYCLE CAN FLY, RIGHT?
TAKE MY DADDY TO THE HOSPI-TAL... PLEASE!
UH...
MY DADDY'S G-GONNA DIE!
PLEASE, MISTER! PLEASE!
H-HEY, ISAKA... WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
WHY DON'T YOU PERFORM A MIRACLE, MASTER HOICHI?
HUH ...?
WHERE THE HELL WERE YOU, AKANE?!
YOU, TOO, KIMIKO! GET INSIDE HERE, NOW!

YOU'RE BOTH LUCKY YOU WEREN'T KILLED!
AND WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT?
YOU'RE NOT SETTING MUCH OF AN EXAMPLE FOR A SUPPOSEDLY MODEL STUDENT!
I'M SORRY, SIR.
ME TOO.. SORRY, SIR!

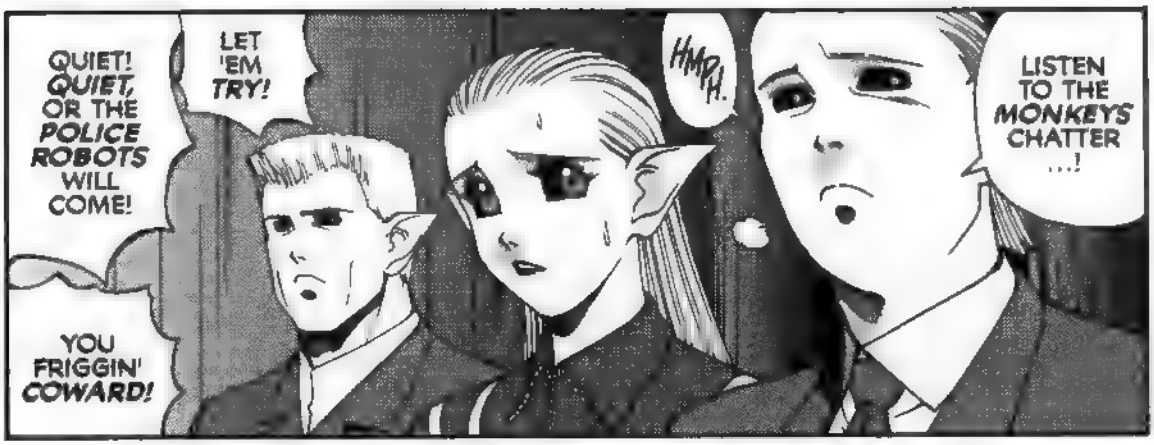

NOW GET IN THERE AND SIT DOWN!
YES, SIR!

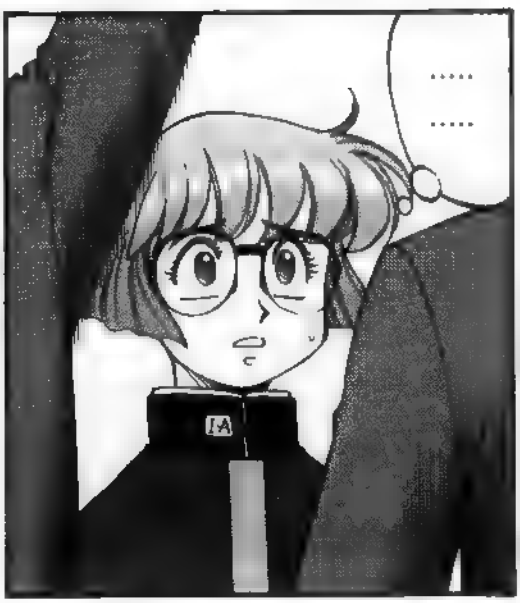

EXCUSE ME... SORRY.


AH, STUDENTS...? LISTEN QUIETLY, PLEASE.
I HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE...

WHY ARE THERE ONLY RIOFALDIAN TEACHERS UP THERE WITH THE PRINCIPAL ...?
AND MISS KINBA'S STILL IN HER SWEAT SUIT
THERE WAS ALMOST, LIKE, A RIOT... MISS KIN'BA NEARLY GOT KILLED!
ONE OF THE HUMAN TEACHERS ATTACKED HER, I HEARD THAT'S WHY ONLY RIOFALDIANS ARE UP THERE, I GUESS...
WE'VE RECEIVED CONFIRMATION THAT THE EARLIER SHOCKWAVE WE ALL FELT WAS FROM A RIOFALDIAN WEAPON THAT .. THAT DESTROYED MOUNT FUJI.
FURTHERMORE, THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS JUST ACCEPTED THE RIOFALDIANS' DEMAND FOR UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER.
HUH? FOR REAL?
HE CAN'T BE SERIOUS !
NO WAY..!
BOTH THE POLICE AND THE JAPANESE MILITARY ARE NOW UNDER RIOFALDIAN COMMAND. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, IF YOU RESIST OR ATTACK OUR RIOFALDIAN TEACHERS...
...YOU'LL BE ARRESTED... OR...OR WORSE.

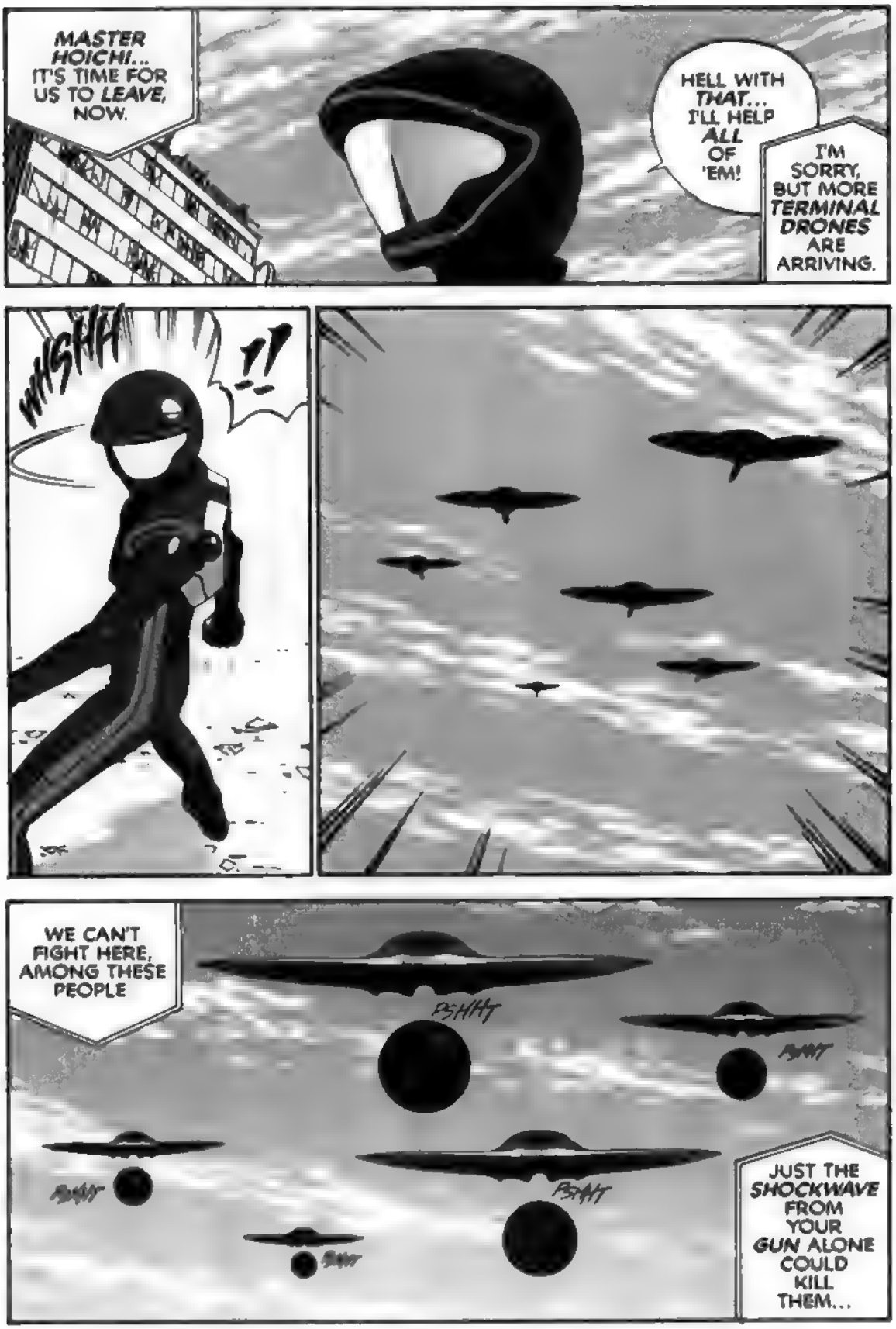
WHAT THE HELL?!
AAAAH?!
THIS IS FASCISM, YOU BASTARDS!
NO!
WHAT ABOUT MISTER TANAKA, HUH? THEY KILLED HIM!
WE'LL GO GUERILLA ON YOU!


QUIET! QUIET, OR THE POLICE ROBOTS WILL COME!
LET 'EM TRY!
HMPH.
LISTEN TO THE MONKEYS CHATTER ...!
YOU FRIGGIN' COWARD!


.....
.....

HEY! WATCH THIS, PEOPLE!
OOOHHHH!
HEY, ISAKA! HOW'D I GET HIS HEART GOING AGAIN JUST BY TOUCHING HIM...?
YOUR GLOVE INJECTS MEDICAL REPAIR NANO-MACHINES.
THE INJECTOR'S EXPENDED NOW, BUT MAKE CONTACT WITH MY CHASSIS AND I'LL REPLENISH IT.
HEY! I THINK MY ARM'S BROKEN!
CAN YOU FIX IT FOR ME?

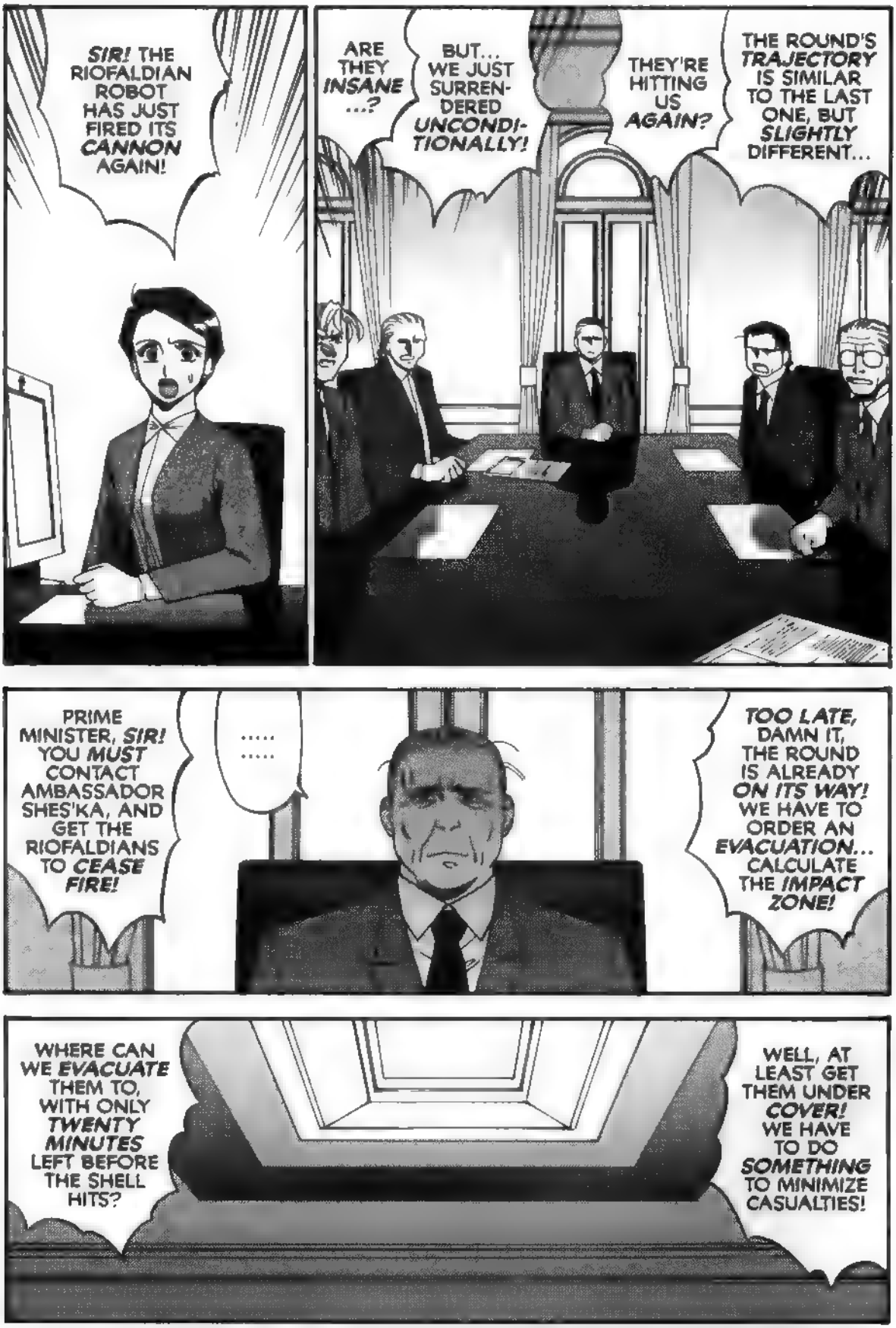
PLEASE HELP MY DAUGHTER!
SHE CAN'T BREATHE RIGHT!
MY GIRLFRIEND'S TRAPPED UNDER THOSE STAIRS!
P-PLEASE! DO SOMETHING!
WHADDAYA SAY, ISAKA...?
WELL... SHALL WE GET TO WORK, MASTER HOICHI?
FSHHT
FSHHT
A LITTLE STRAIGHTER... THERE! THE NANO-MACHINES WILL STABILIZE IT, NOW...
THERE YA GO...!
HUP!
SHRAKK
OH, SIR...
...THANK YOU... THANK YOU SO MUCH...!
KEHL!
DAMN! YOU'RE, LIKE, FREAKIN' AMAZING, DUDE!
PLEASE! SHOW US YOUR FACE, WON'T YOU?
WE'VE GOT MORE INJURED OVER HERE! HURRY!


MASTER HOICHI... IT'S TIME FOR US TO LEAVE, NOW.
HELL WITH THAT... I'LL HELP ALL OF 'EM!
I'M SORRY, BUT MORE TERMINAL DRONES ARE ARRIVING.
WHSHH
!!
WE CAN'T FIGHT HERE, AMONG THESE PEOPLE
PSHHT
PSHHT
PSHHT
PSHHT
JUST THE SHOCKWAVE FROM YOUR GUN ALONE COULD KILL THEM...

CANNON ROUND IS *CHAMBERED,* GENERAL!
EXCELLENT! *FIRE CONTROL*-- TARGET SOROSARM'S *HYPERPENETRATOR ROUND* ON THE ROBOT'S *HEAD!*
I WANT IT *DECAPITATED!*
NOW... *FIRE!*

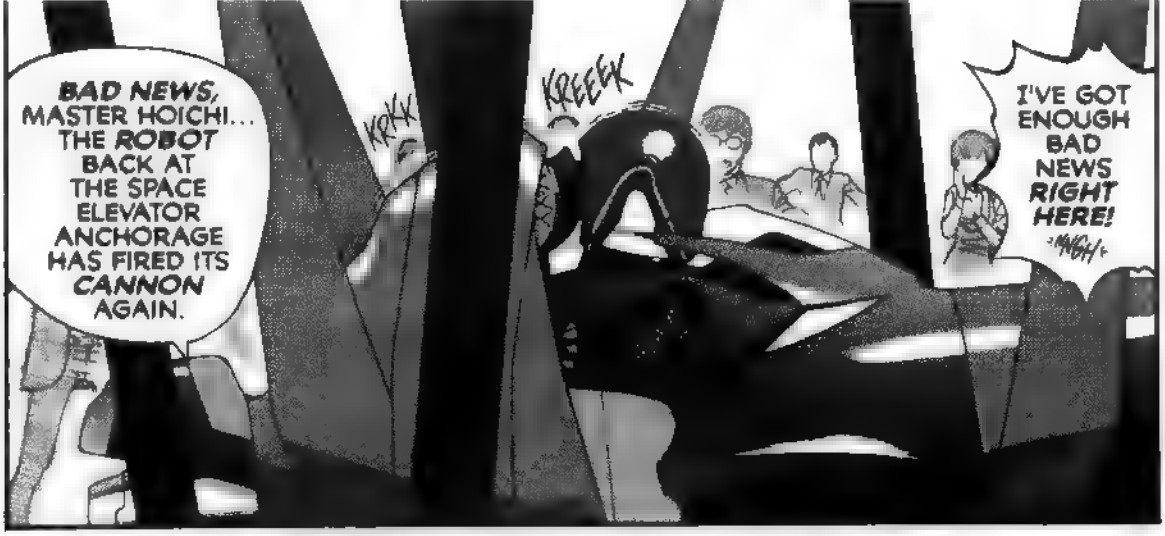
TO BE CONTINUED...!

1.7
STAGE 1.7


SIR! THE RIOFALDIAN ROBOT HAS JUST FIRED ITS CANNON AGAIN!
ARE THEY INSANE ...?
BUT... WE JUST SURRENDERED UNCONDITIONALLY!
THEY'RE HITTING US AGAIN?
THE ROUND'S TRAJECTORY IS SIMILAR TO THE LAST ONE, BUT SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT...
PRIME MINISTER, SIR! YOU MUST CONTACT AMBASSADOR SHES'KA, AND GET THE RIOFALDIANS TO CEASE FIRE!
.....
.....
TOO LATE, DAMN IT, THE ROUND IS ALREADY ON ITS WAY! WE HAVE TO ORDER AN EVACUATION... CALCULATE THE IMPACT ZONE!
WHERE CAN WE EVACUATE THEM TO, WITH ONLY TWENTY MINUTES LEFT BEFORE THE SHELL HITS?
WELL, AT LEAST GET THEM UNDER COVER! WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO MINIMIZE CASUALTIES!

WHOOSH
KCHNKK
DAMN! SIX OF THE BASTARDS!
VVVVVVVV
OH, DEAR... WE SEEM TO HAVE DAWDLED HERE A BIT TOO LONG

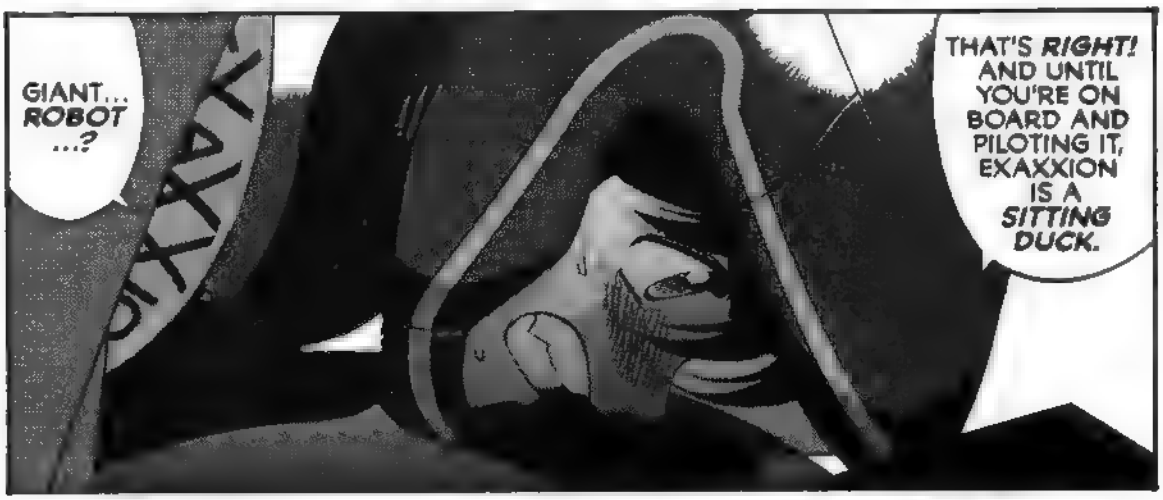
CHKK CHKK CHKK
WOOSH
SKRRNNGG
OHMIGAWD...!

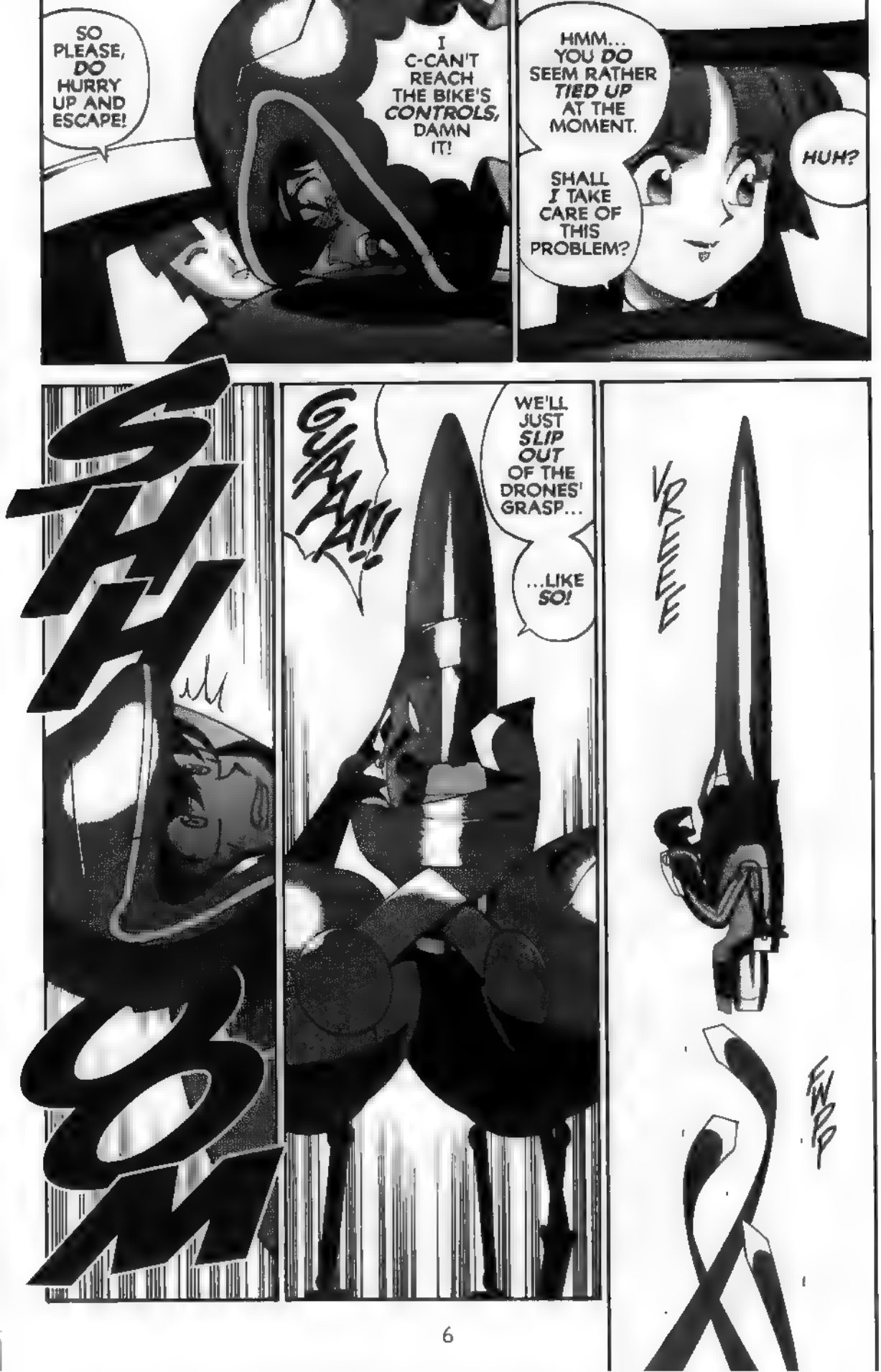

BAD NEWS, MASTER HOICHI... THE ROBOT BACK AT THE SPACE ELEVATOR ANCHORAGE HAS FIRED ITS CANNON AGAIN.
KRKK
KREEEK
I'VE GOT ENOUGH BAD NEWS RIGHT HERE!
HNGH!

BUT THIS TIME THE SHELL IS HEADED STRAIGHT FOR EXAXXION!
EXAXX... HUH? WHAT'S THAT?

EXAXXION IS EARTH'S SECRET SUPER WEAPON, OF COURSE. MASTER HOSUKE DEPLOYED IT SEVERAL MINUTES AGO.
NOW WE ONLY HAVE TEN MINUTES LEFT BEFORE THE RIOFALDIAN CANNON ROUND STRIKES IT.

GEEZ!! CAN'T GRANDPA TAKE CARE OF THIS?!
EXAXXION IS YOUR GIANT ROBOT, MASTER HOICHI-- YOU'RE ITS PILOT, YOU SEE?


GIANT... ROBOT ...?
EXAXXION
THAT'S RIGHT! AND UNTIL YOU'RE ON BOARD AND PILOTING IT, EXAXXION IS A SITTING DUCK.

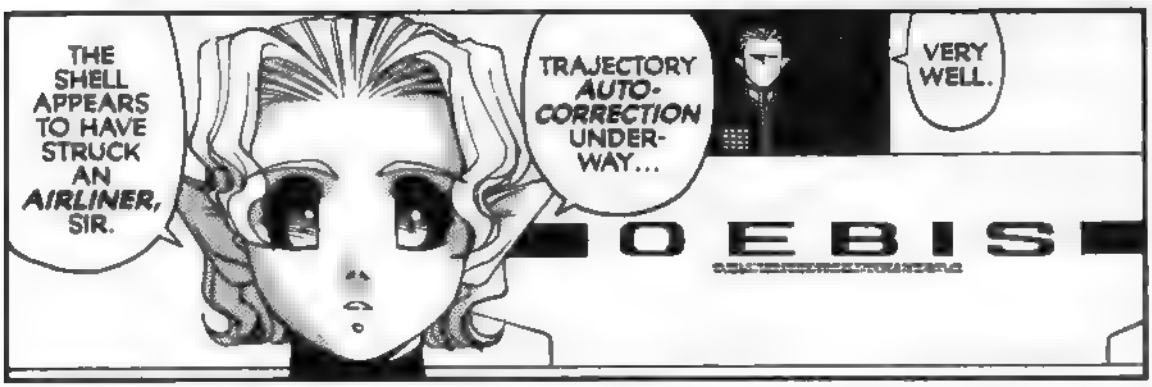

SO PLEASE, DO HURRY UP AND ESCAPE!
I C-CAN'T REACH THE BIKE'S CONTROLS, DAMN IT!
HMM... YOU DO SEEM RATHER TIED UP AT THE MOMENT.
SHALL I TAKE CARE OF THIS PROBLEM?
HUH?
SHOOM
GUAAA!!
WE'LL JUST SLIP OUT OF THE DRONES' GRASP...
...LIKE SO!
VRRRR
FWP

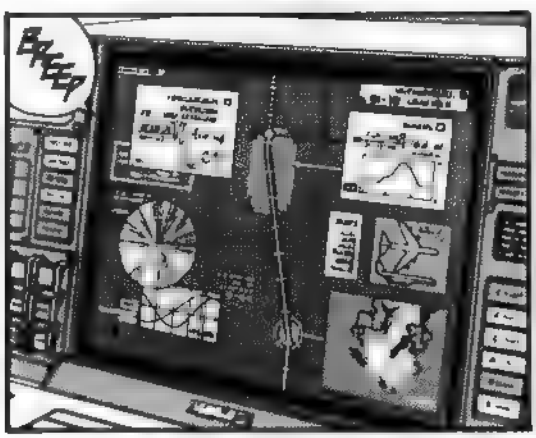
HOW THE HELL DID YOU *DO* THAT, ISAKA ...?
I SIMPLY CHANGED MY BODY'S CONFIGU-RATION AND COEFFICIENT OF FRICTION QUICKLY ENOUGH TO SLIP FREE.
NOW, TAKE CARE OF THOSE *CARRIER UNITS,* WON'T YOU?
WHAT?! CAN'T WE JUST *OUTRUN* THEM...?
OH, *NO.* THEY'RE *FASTER* THAN I AM, EVEN IN MY FULLY OPTIMIZED CONFIGU-RATION
WELL, *DAMN* IT... *GUN SET!*
POLISH THEM OFF *QUICKLY,* PLEASE.
WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF *TIME,* HERE...

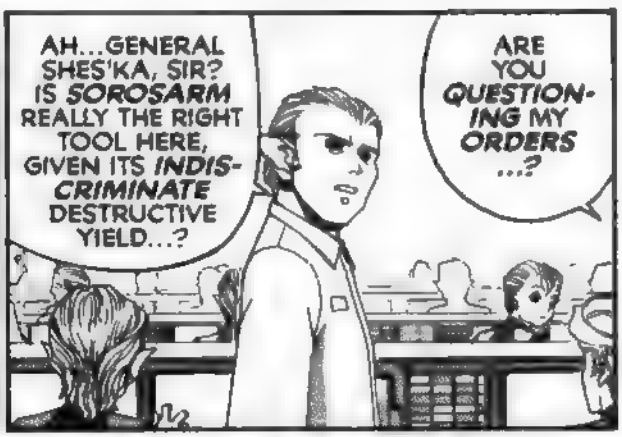
ATTENTION: A SECOND CANNON ROUND HAS BEEN FIRED FROM THE SPACE ELEVATOR ANCHORAGE.
OH, PLEASE, GUN...DON'T GO ACTING CRAZY! EVEN IF YOU'VE GOT SOME SCI-FI SUPER SUIT...
STUDENTS! JUST STAY CALM, AND FOLLOW ORDERS, DAMN IT!
WE EXPECT IMPACT WITHIN SEVERAL MINUTES.
EVERYONE, PLEASE SIT ON THE GYM FLOOR AND BRACE FOR THE SHOCK WAVE.
...YOU CAN'T WIN AGAINST THAT ALIEN CANNON! I MEAN, IT BLEW AWAY MOUNT FUJI!

SHREEEEEEEEEEEE
GREAT! ATC JUST CLEARED US TO LAND IN TOKYO.
THANK GOD! IF THEY'D TOLD US TO TURN BACK AND RETURN TO THE ELEVATOR ANCHORAGE'S AIRFIELD AGAIN, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD'VE DONE!
I'LL LET THE PASSEN-GERS KNOW...
FLIGHT TIME TO HANEDA, JUST OVER FOUR HOURS...
HUH ?!
A RADAR CONTACT, CLOSING IN FROM BEHIND US...
WHAT?! THE SPEED IS OFF THE SCALE!!
THAT MEANS OVER MACH THIRTY!!
WE'VE GOT A COLLISION ALARM--
235
WARNING
CAUTION

BOOM


THE SHELL APPEARS TO HAVE STRUCK AN *AIRLINER*, SIR.
TRAJECTORY *AUTO-CORRECTION* UNDER-WAY...
VERY WELL.
OEBIS


BEEEP


AH...GENERAL SHES'KA, SIR? IS *SOROSARM* REALLY THE RIGHT TOOL HERE, GIVEN ITS *INDISCRIMINATE* DESTRUCTIVE YIELD...?
ARE YOU *QUESTIONING* MY *ORDERS* ...?

N-NO, SIR!
BUT IF WE INFLICT *TOO* MUCH COLLATERAL DAMAGE, LOCAL INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT AND TOURISM POTENTIAL COULD BE AFFECTED! STANDARD *OPERATIONAL PROTOCOL* DICTATES THAT--

IS *THAT* ANY WAY FOR THE CHIEF OF *SOROSARM OPS* TO TALK?
DO YOUR JOB AND FOCUS ON THE *TARGET!*

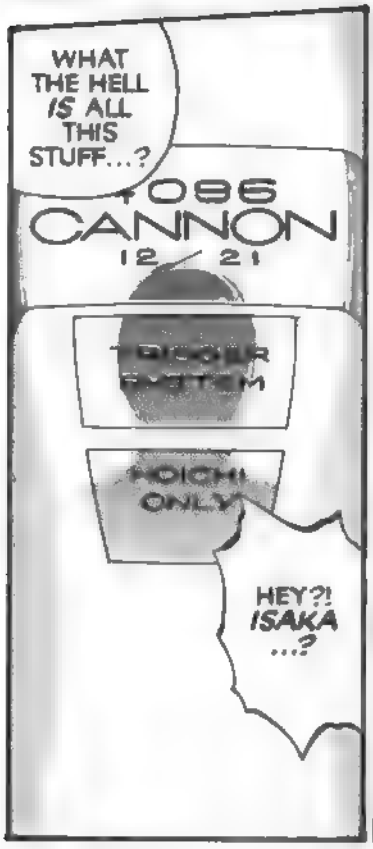
AND PREPARE FOR A *THIRD* ATTACK. LOAD SOROSARM'S CANNON WITH ANOTHER *HYPERPENETRATOR* ROUND.
YES, SIR, BUT...
DO IT, DAMN YOU! WE NEED TO ELIMINATE *EVERY* OBSTACLE TO THE PEACEFUL SUPPRESSION OF THIS PLANET, *NOW!*
SIR! WE'RE RECEIVING A *DIRECT TRANS-MISSION* FROM THE *HOME-WORLD ...!*
!
SPAK
SPAK

YO, ISAKA! WHERE'S THIS EXAXXION THING, ANYWAY?
WHSHAK
BROOM
DEAD AHEAD, MASTER HOICHI. WE'RE ALMOST THERE...
SHNKK
VGHOOM
....
HERE COMES MASTER HOICHI, SIR!
ABOUT DAMNED TIME, TOO! TELL ISAKA TO GET HER BUTT IN GEAR!
YES, SIR!
!
WHOA! IS THAT IT?!

MAN ...!
IT'S FRIGGIN' HUGE!!
PREPARE FOR DOCK-ING!
H- HEY! HOLD ON!
FWHSSH
I DIDN'T SAY I'D DO THIS, YET...

FSHAKK
WHOA!
VREEE
WHOOSHNK
EXAXXION

EXAXXION

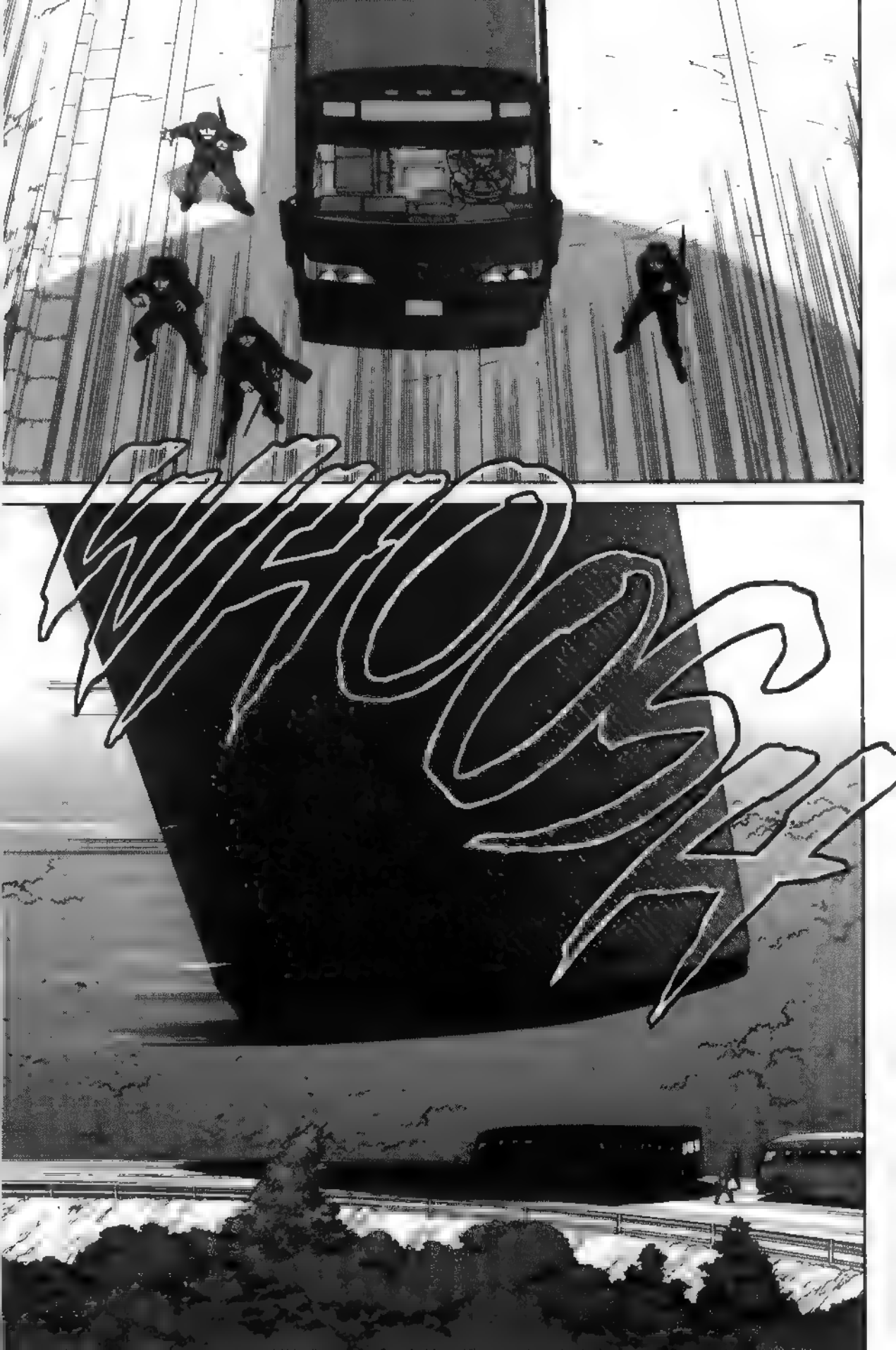

WHAT THE HELL IS ALL THIS STUFF...?
086 CANNON
12 21
TRIGGER SYSTEM
HOICHI ONLY
HEY?! ISAKA ...?

HERE I AM!
YAAH!

I'VE JUST MORPHED INTO THE CONTROL SEAT. I'LL ALWAYS BE UNDER YOU, MASTER HOICHI.
U-UNDER ME...?
NOW, PLEASE TRY THE CONTROLS, WON'T YOU? WE'VE ONLY THREE MINUTES LEFT...

EXAXXION WILL MOVE IN THE DIRECTION YOU DEPRESS THE RIGHT FOOT PEDAL. AH...THAT'S IT !
WH... WHOA ...!
H-HEY. . GRAND-PA?!
YOU CAN HEAR ME, RIGHT?
SHNKK
YUP! SO, HOW'S THE RIDE, MY BOY?
AWW! NO FAIR!
HEY, HOW IS JUST RIDING AROUND IN THIS SUCKER SUPPOSED TO ACCOM-PLISH ANYTHING ...?
OOH!
WELL...I HAVEN'T WORKED OUT ALL THE DETAILS YET, LADDIE. BUT IT BETTER WORK, OR THE HUMAN RACE KICKS THE BUCKET!
WHAT ?!
KSHANGG KSHANGG
KSHANGG
BUT RIGHT NOW, JUST GET THE HELL OUT OF THERE, WILL YOU? THAT INCOMING CANNON ROUND'S HOMING IN ON YOU!
THE SHOCK WAVE'LL ANNIHILATE THE TOWN YOU'RE IN IF YOU DON'T GET MOVING!

WELL, WHERE THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO MOVE TO, DAMN IT?
KHOOM
KHOOM
MIGHT AS WELL HEAD FOR THE REMAINS OF MOUNT FUJI, MY BOY. NOTHING LEFT TO BE DESTROYED THERE, EH?
THE DAMN THING'S MOVING!
THIS FOOTAGE IS GOING TO THE STINKIN' RIOFALDIANS, AND NOT TO OUR H.Q., RIGHT?
KHOOM
KHOOM
YEAH, BUT WE GOT ORDERS TO KEEP THE VIDEO FEED ROLLING ANYWAY...
KHOOM
KHOOM
H-HEY... IT'S SPEEDING UP!
GET BACK! GET BACK, DAMN IT--!


KIDNAP

SHEESH...! CAN'T THIS LAME THING GO ANY FASTER, ISAKA?
OH, IT ONLY FEELS SLOW BECAUSE OF YOUR PERSPECTIVE. WE'RE ACTUALLY MOVING AT OVER 120 MILES PER HOUR, YOU KNOW!
KSHANGG
KSHANGG
KTHOOM

WHOA... IT FELT LIKE I STOMPED SOMETHING INTO MUSH! ARE THINGS OKAY DOWN THERE...?
KTHOOM
KTHOOM
UM, WELL... EVERYTHING'S FINE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, MASTER HOICHI.

SO, ABOUT THIS INCOMING SHELL THINGIE... HOW DO I SHOOT IT DOWN?
DOES ONE OF THESE JOYSTICK BUTTONS FIRE A VULCAN CANNON OR SOMETHING...?

TO REPEAT WHAT I STATED EARLIER-- IF YOU WANT TO BE A HERO, DON'T SHOOT BACK. JUST ENDURE!
WHAT --?!

REALLY, IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE ONE SILLY LITTLE SOROSARM CANNON ROUND, HOW CAN YOU FIGHT OFF THE ENTIRE MIGHT OF RIOFALD...?
HMM... THAT SUCKS, BUT... GOOD POINT.
EXAXXION HAS EXCELLENT BODY ARMOR. ACCORDING TO YOUR GRANDFATHER'S CALCULATIONS, IT SHOULD STAND UP JUST FINE.

"BODY ARMOR," HUH? WHAT IF THEY HIT THE HEAD?
ERR... ??

ISAKA!
INCOMING ROUND AT TEN O'CLOCK!

THANK YOU, SISTER DEAR! ♥
PREPARE FOR IMPACT, MASTER HOICHI.
KCHAK
EXAXION
NFF
SHNGG
WH-WHOA! WAIT! I'M NOT--
OH DEAR. DIRECT HIT TO EXAXXION'S HEAD, SIR!
THE HEAD ...?
AW, DANG IT ALL!
OOH, SIR! ♥

WHOOM
AXION
TO BE CONTINUED..!

1.8
STAGE

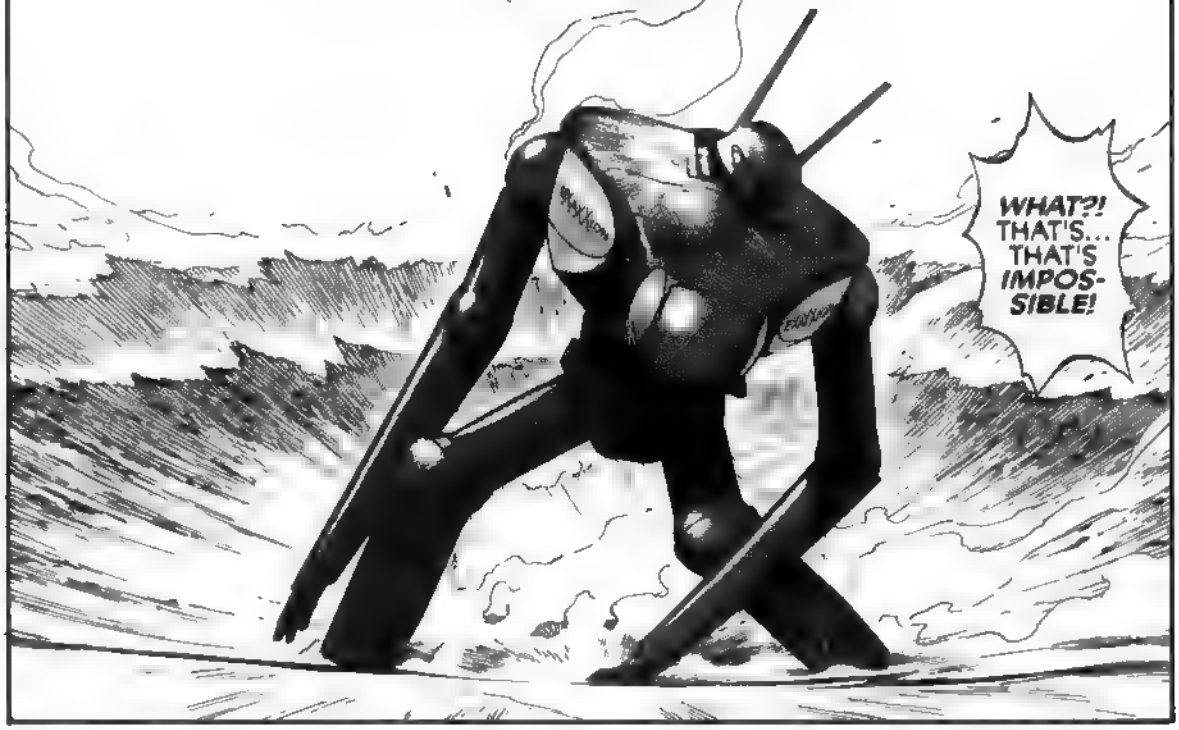
BRMMM
BREEE
KSHHH
HUH?
BREEP
SKREEE
ZZZK
ANY DATA ON THE IMPACT POINT, YET?
消防庁
LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER STRIKE NEAR MOUNT FUJI. BUT SEISMIC READINGS SAY IT'S SMALLER THAN THE LAST ONE!
CHECK ONLINE FOR ROAD CONDITIONS, HUH? WE'RE HEADING OUT!
RMBBRMBBRMBB
KREEK
KREEK
KREEK
MAK
WE ARE EXPERIENCING TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES
PROGRAMS MAY WILL RESUME MOMENTARILY
PLEASE STAY TUNED
THAT DIDN'T FEEL AS BIG AS THE LAST ONE... WHAT'S THE TV SAY?
NO ONE'S SAYING ANY-THING...
OH, GUN... PLEASE DON'T BE WHERE THAT ROUND HIT...!

AH! DATALINK TO EXAXXION COMING BACK ONLINE, SIR!
HOW'S HOICHI DOING?
ONE MOMENT, SIR, THE DATA'S STILL... GOT IT!

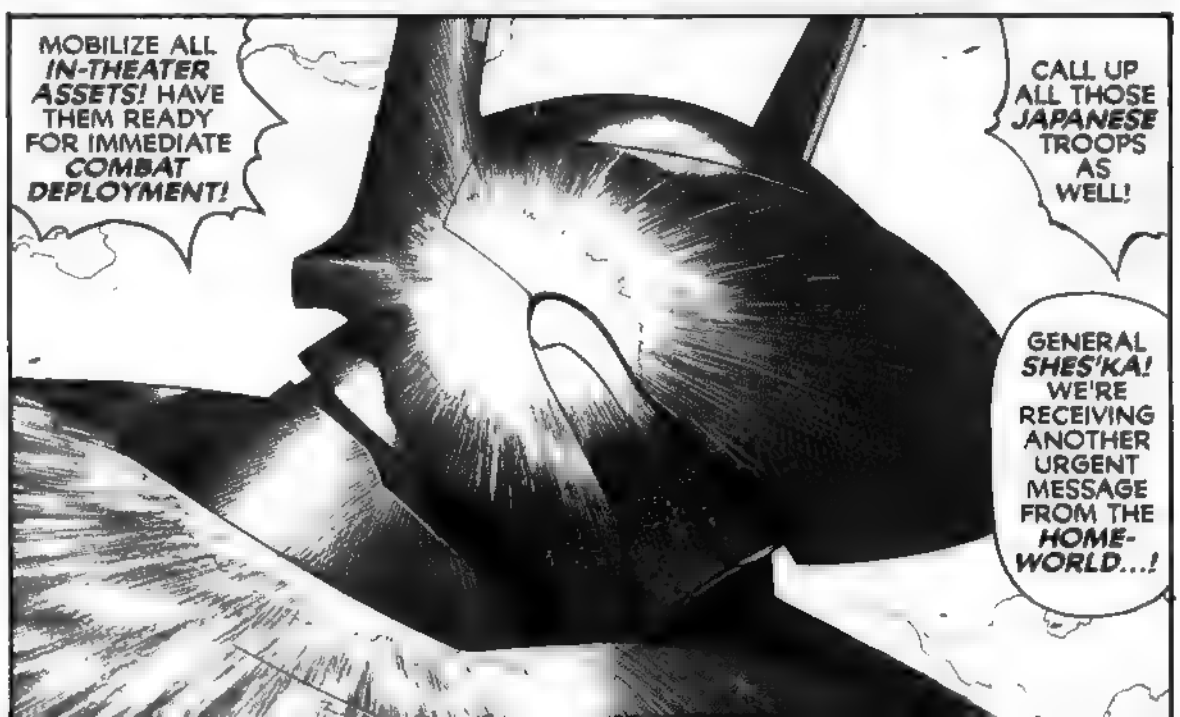
OH... OH, MY...
WHAT IS IT...?!

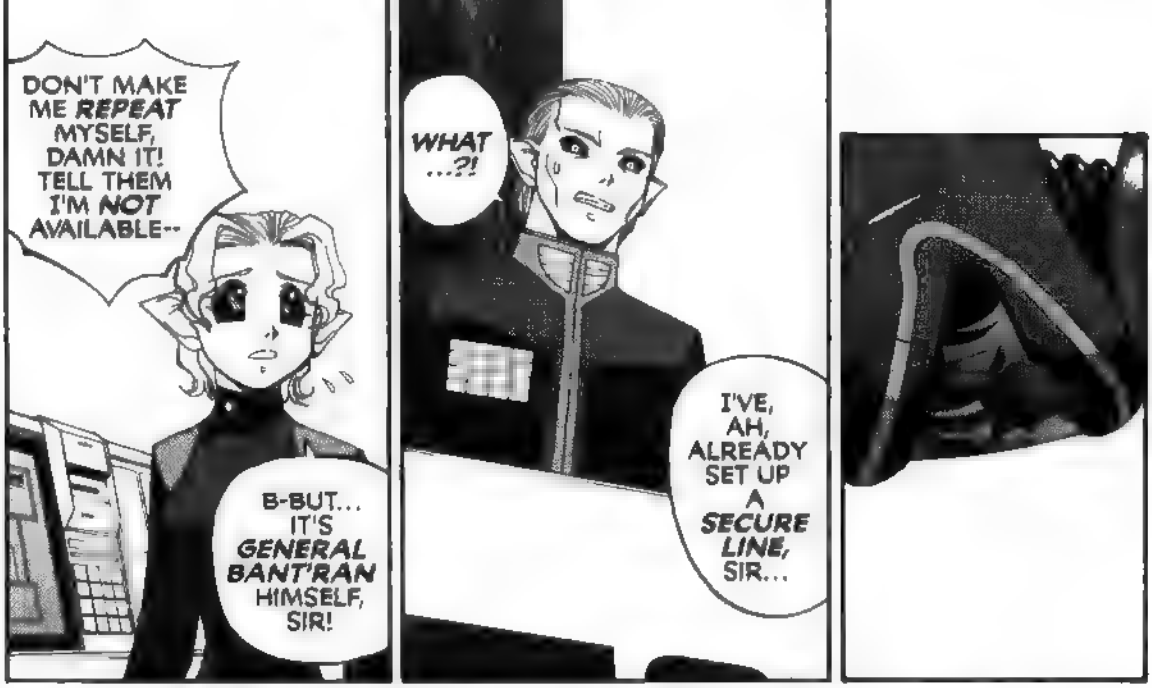
HOICHI HAS GONE INTO CARDIAC ARREST, SIR.
WHAT ?!

IS THE ROBOT DESTROYED?
DIRECT HIT ON ITS HEAD CONFIRMED, SIR! WE'RE GETTING AN UPDATE FROM THE NEAREST RECON PROBE...
. TRANSFERRING VIDEO FEED TO THE MAIN SCREEN...NOW.


WHAT?! THAT'S... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

A DIRECT HIT FROM SOROSARM'S MAIN CANNON--
--AND IT'S NOT EVEN SCRATCHED?!


MOBILIZE ALL IN-THEATER ASSETS! HAVE THEM READY FOR IMMEDIATE COMBAT DEPLOYMENT!
CALL UP ALL THOSE JAPANESE TROOPS AS WELL!
GENERAL SHES'KA! WE'RE RECEIVING ANOTHER URGENT MESSAGE FROM THE HOME-WORLD...!


DON'T MAKE ME *REPEAT* MYSELF, DAMN IT! TELL THEM I'M *NOT* AVAILABLE--
B-BUT... IT'S *GENERAL BANT'RAN* HIMSELF, SIR!
WHAT ...?!
I'VE, AH, ALREADY SET UP A *SECURE LINE,* SIR...

HOICHI! SNAP *OUT* OF IT, BOY! *RYOKO!*
YES, *SIR!* DO *FIX* *HIM UP,* WON'T YOU, *ISAKA ...?*

RIGHT AWAY, DEAR SISTER ...!
INITIATING *RESUSCI-TATION* PROCE-DURE...
KCHAK
YAXXION

ZZZK
B-BMPP

PULSE AND RESPIRATION ARE *RESTORED...* BUT HIS BRAIN WAVES READ AS ABNORMAL, ISAKA!
NOW INJECTING *MEDICAL NANO-MACHINES* INTO HIS BRAIN... INITIATING *NEURAL SCAN...*

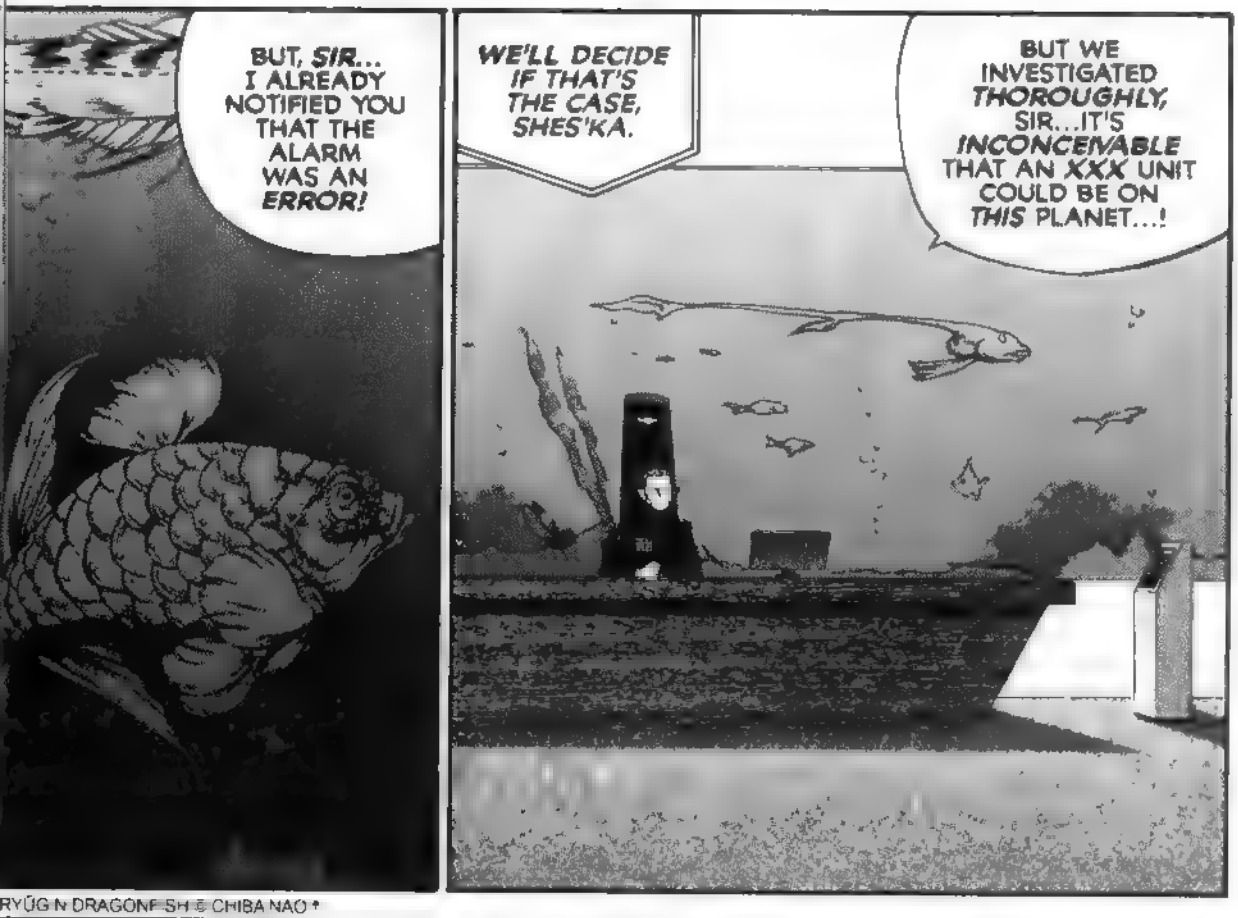
HMM... MY NANO-MACHINES HAVE DETECTED A CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE.
THEY'RE SELF-REPLICATING TO ADEQUATE NUMBERS FOR CELLULAR REPAIR...
HEY! IT'S THAT KID FROM THE FAMILY OF KOOKS!
WHO'RE YOU CALLIN' A KOOK ...?!
YOUR GRANDPA, THAT'S WHO! HE WROTE THAT DUMB BOOK ABOUT THE "INVASION"!
AND IF YOU BELIEVE HIS CRAP, YOU'RE A KOOK, TOO!
THE 'FALDIES HAVE BEEN HERE FOR FIVE YEARS, AND NOTHING'S HAPPENED!
LOOK AT THE KEWL TECH THEY'VE GIVEN US! THEY'RE NOT "INVADERS," KOOK-BOY!
LOOKIT THIS, HUH? A RIOFALDIAN-TECH WRISTCOM! EIGHT PETA OF MEMORY, HANDLES ALL THE DIFFERENT WIRELESS STANDARDS...
...AND IT'S CHEAPER'N HELL!
IT'S DOPES LIKE YOU THEY BRAINWASH FIRST! YOU'D SELL YOUR MOM FOR A NEW TOY!
WHAT DID YOU SAY, PUNK ...?
LET'S KICK HIS ASS.

CEREBRAL BLOOD VESSEL INTEGRITY *RESTORED.*
INJECTING TAILORED *NEURO-STIMU-LANTS...*
GUN, ARE YOU REALLY *OKAY?*
YOU OUGHT TO SEE A *DOCTOR ...!*
SHADDUP, WILL YA? I *WON,* DIDN'T I?
I'M *WORRIED* ABOUT YOU, GUN...
YEAH, *RIGHT,* AKANE. WHY DON'T YOU *WORRY* ABOUT WHY NOBODY BELIEVES MY GRANDPA, HUH?
UM, WELL... IT'S KINDA HARD TO BELIEVE *ANYBODY* WITH SUCH, UM, *PECULIAR* IDEAS--
OH!
HUH.
VISION DESTROYED
VMMMM
♪♫ BYE-BYE, *BETA!* YOU'LL NEVER USE V AGAIN! ♫♪
IT'S A *CFO!** I'VE NEVER *SEEN* ONE BEFORE, EXCEPT ON TV...!
DAMN *ALIENS...* SELLING US THIS *STUPID JUNK* TO TRICK US INTO LETTING DOWN OUR GUARD!

*CFO: COMMERCIAL FLYING OBJECT.

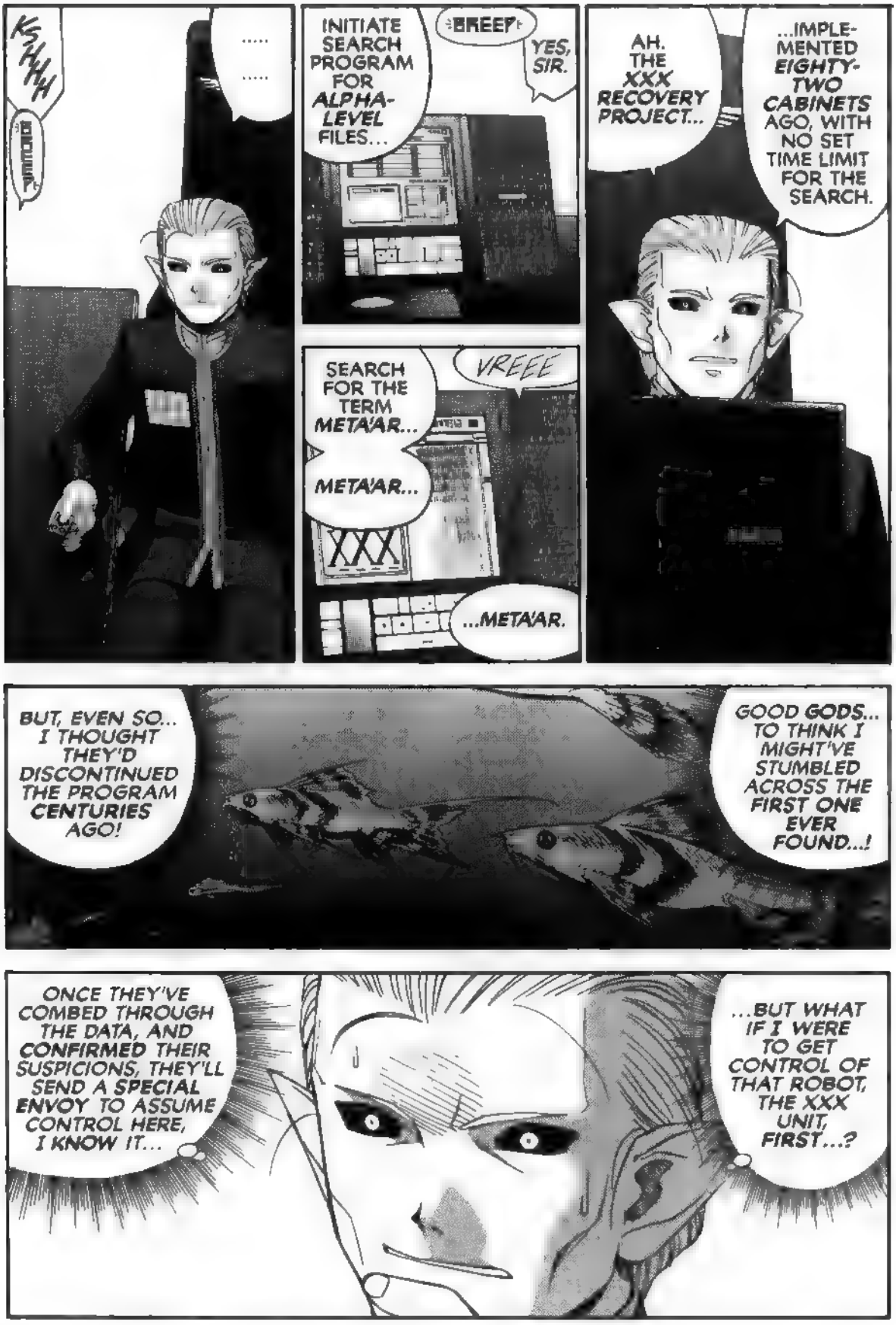
THERE YOU GO AGAIN...
FOUR THOUSAND YEARS OF CULINARY TRADITION MEETS SIX YEARS OF SPACE FROM OUTER SPACE FOR A CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH YOUR DINNER TABLE MANNERS! YOU'LL LOVE IT!
YEAH, WELL... WHAT IF EVERYTHING MY GRANDPA SAYS TURNS OUT TO BE TRUE, HUH? WHAT'LL YOU DO THEN?
WELL, CONSIDERING THAT'D BE THE END OF THE WORLD...
...I'D DO ANYTHING YOU ASKED ME TO, I GUESS...!
OH, YEAH ...?
...WOULD YOU LET ME MAKE OUT WITH YOU...?
?! YOU MEAN IT...?
UM.. WELL...
Y- YES.
UH- HUH... BUT, UM... IN THAT CASE...
...I'D HOPE YOU'D BE TOO MUCH OF A GENTLEMAN TO ACTUALLY ASK ME TO, HOICHI...!
=NNN=

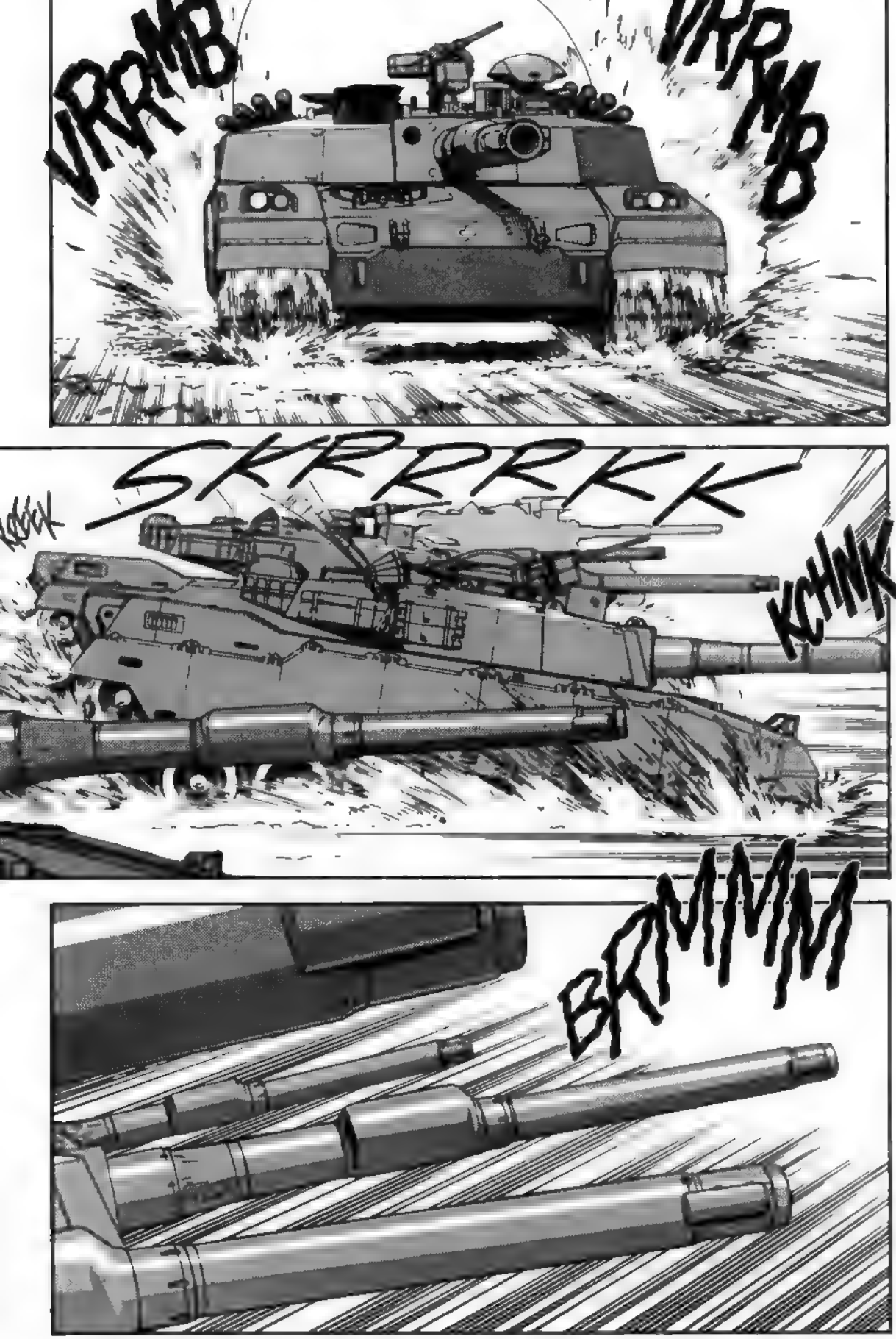
YEAH.. RIGHT.
STILL HAVEN'T MADE OUT WITH HER. YET..
WHAT WAS THAT, MY BOY?
HUH...? WHAAAT --?
FOR SOME REASON HE'S SEXUALLY AROUSED, SIR. MAY I, AH, TAKE CARE OF HIM? I'D ONLY NEED A FEW MINUTES...
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT NOW! BUSINESS FIRST!
OH...NOW I REMEMBER...WE TOOK A HIT FROM THAT ROBOT'S CANNON...
SNAP OUT OF IT, HOICHI!
HEY, YOU OLD FART! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME I WAS GONNA NEARLY GET KILLED?!
STOP YOUR WHINING, LADDIE. EXAXXION'S INERTIAL CONTROL SYSTEM SUPPRESSED OVER 99% OF THE IMPACT!
INERTIAL CONTROL ...?
DAMN STRAIGHT! THE TECHNOLOGY DOESN'T PERMIT ABSOLUTE INERTIAL CANCELLATION...BUT YOUR GUNNER SUIT SOAKED UP THE REST OF THE IMPACT.
DAMN, THAT IS TOO COOL! HEY, GRANDPA, DID YOU INVENT THIS STUFF YOURSELF? WITHOUT THEM, I MEAN?
NAW-- I WISH. I JUST REVERSE-ENGINEERED THE TECHNOLOGY, YOU MIGHT SAY.
REVERSE-ENGINEERED ...?


BUT, SIR... I ALREADY NOTIFIED YOU THAT THE ALARM WAS AN ERROR!
WE'LL DECIDE IF THAT'S THE CASE, SHES'KA.
BUT WE INVESTIGATED THOROUGHLY, SIR...IT'S INCONCEIVABLE THAT AN XXX UNIT COULD BE ON THIS PLANET...!

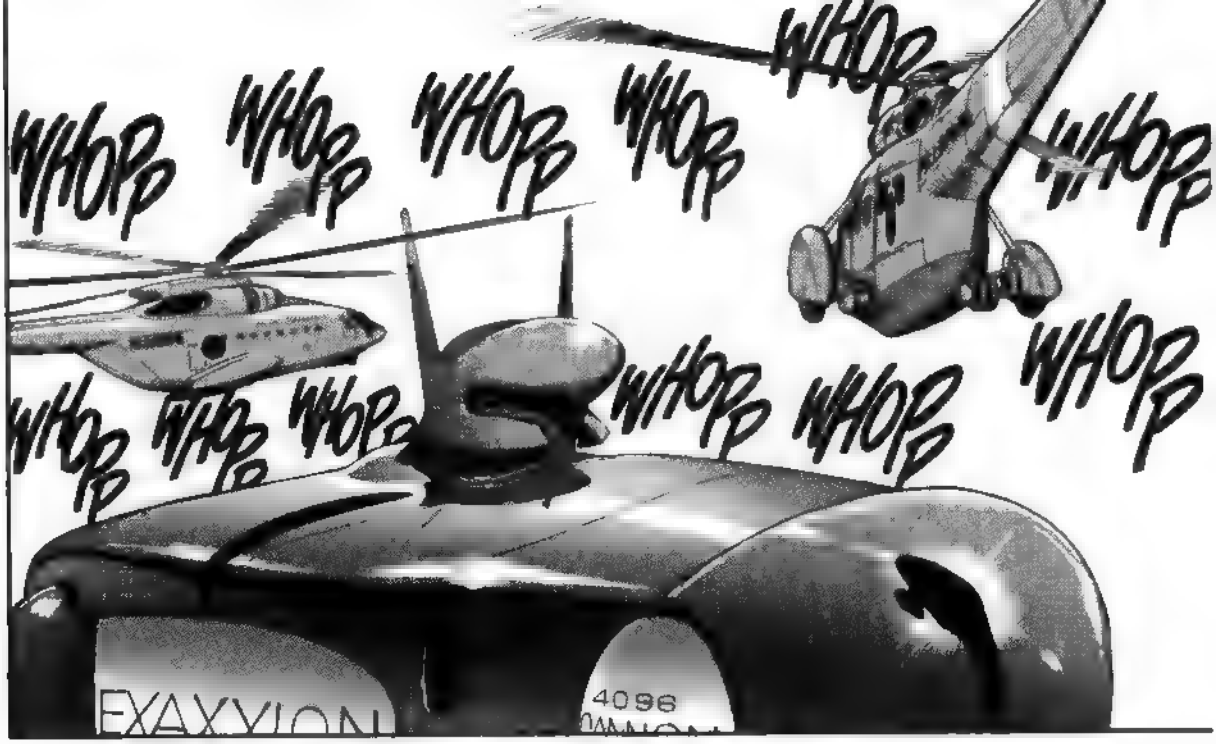
RYÛG N DRAGONF SH © CHIBA NAO *

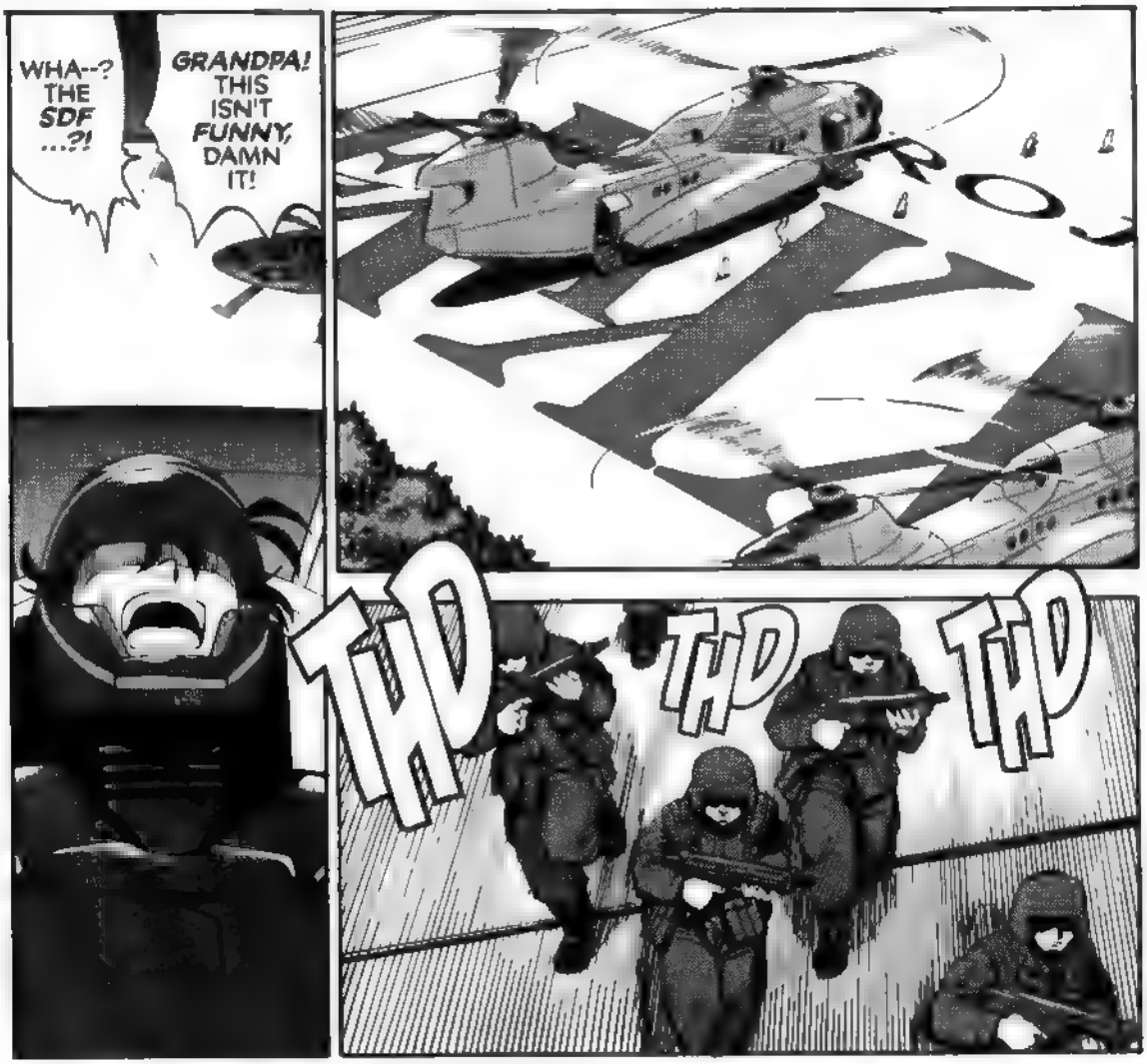
WE'LL TAKE A FRESH APPROACH TO ANALYZING THE DATA, AND FIND OUT FOR CERTAIN. NOW, SEND US ALL YOUR RECORDS, IMMEDIATELY! AND GIVE US THE RAW DATA-- WITH NO TRIMMING OR EDITING!
BUT, SIR...
DO IT, SHES'KA. NOW. THE PRIME MINISTER IS WAITING.


KSHHH
BREEP
.....
.....
INITIATE SEARCH PROGRAM FOR ALPHA-LEVEL FILES...
BREEP
YES, SIR.
SEARCH FOR THE TERM META'AR...
META'AR...
XXX
VREEE
...META'AR.
AH. THE XXX RECOVERY PROJECT...
...IMPLE-MENTED EIGHTY-TWO CABINETS AGO, WITH NO SET TIME LIMIT FOR THE SEARCH.
BUT, EVEN SO... I THOUGHT THEY'D DISCONTINUED THE PROGRAM CENTURIES AGO!
GOOD GODS... TO THINK I MIGHT'VE STUMBLED ACROSS THE FIRST ONE EVER FOUND...!
ONCE THEY'VE COMBED THROUGH THE DATA, AND CONFIRMED THEIR SUSPICIONS, THEY'LL SEND A SPECIAL ENVOY TO ASSUME CONTROL HERE, I KNOW IT...
...BUT WHAT IF I WERE TO GET CONTROL OF THAT ROBOT, THE XXX UNIT, FIRST...?


VRRMB
VRRMB
SKRRRKK
KCHNK
BRMMM

HEY, ARE THE MONITORS BUSTED? I CAN'T SEE ANY-THING...
I'LL RAISE THE BLAST SHIELDS, MASTER HOICHI.
VMMMM
PSHHT
HUH? WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON...?
THIRTY-FOUR MINUTES HAVE ELAPSED SINCE WE DEPLOYED EXAXXION, MASTER HOICHI. THE JAPANESE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE HAS ARRIVED, UNDER RIOFALDIAN COMMAND.
WHOP WHOP WHOP WHOP WHOP WHOP WHOP WHOP WHOP WHOP
VRRMB VRRMB VRRMB
VRRMB VRRMB


WHOP
WHOP
WHOP
WHOP
WHOP
WHOP
WHOP
WHOP
WHOP
WHOP
EXAXYION
4096


WHA--? THE SDF ...?!
GRANDPA! THIS ISN'T FUNNY, DAMN IT!
THD
THD
THD

MASTER HOSUKE! WE HAVE SDF TROOPS OVERRUNNING THE LIFT PLATFORM, SIR!
IGNORE 'EM! THOSE LITTLE FIRECRACKERS THEY'VE GOT CAN'T SCRATCH ANY OF OUR HYPERCRYSTAL HATCHES!
YES, SIR... OH!
EXPLO-SION DETECTED AT SHAFT FOUR!
WHAT THE HELL?!
RED SQUAD TO HQ--THE DOORS ARE BLAST-PROOF! REQUEST AIR STRIKE, OVER!

SIR...SDF COMMAND HAS JUST AUTHORIZED A BOMBING RUN ON THE LIFT PLATFORM!
BASTARDS!
THEY'LL MESS UP MY LOGO! AND YOU FINE LADIES JUST HAD THE DAMN THING PAINTED...
GRAND-PA? HEY, GRAND-PA!

WHAT SHOULD I DO? THOSE TANKS ARE ONE THING, BUT I CAN'T OUTRUN HELI-COPTERS!
GRAB THAT JOYSTICK ON THE RIGHT, LADDIE. IT CONTROLS EXAXXION'S SMALLEST-CALIBER GUNS...

LESSEE... RIGHT JOY-STICK...
WHOOSH
KCHNGG
THIS ONE ...?
THAPP
CENTER THE TARGET ONSCREEN, MY BOY, AND PULL THE TRIGGER.
THERE SHOULD BE A CO-AXIAL GUN CAMERA VIEW ON THE LEFT MONITOR.
40ss
CANNON
HUH? BUT... I CAN'T JUST KILL THEM!
PRECISION SHOOTING, MY BOY! JUST KNOCK OUT THE HELO'S ENGINE AND THEY'LL AUTOROTATE DOWN TO THE GROUND!
"AUTO-ROTATE" ...? WHAT'S THAT?
JUST MAKE SURE ALL YOU HIT IS THE ENGINE, LADDIE, AND YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN!
NOW STOP BLEATING AND START SHOOTING, WON'T YOU?
VREEE
ALL YOU'RE SHOOTING ARE A WIMPY LITTLE TRIO OF 88mm VULCAN GUNS, HOICHI-- NOTHING SERIOUS!
NOTHING SERIOUS--? JEEZ!

VRAAAKK
VRAAAKK
GAHH!!
WHOOSH
VRAAK
NO--!
CHAK!
SPRAAAKK
CHOOM

DELTA NINER IS HIT!
THEY'RE GOING DOWN!
HEAVY DAMAGE TO THE GROUND UNITS--!
ALL AIR-CRAFT, PULL BACK!
VRRRR
MB
TANK BATTALION, RETREAT!
UNITS FOUR THROUGH SIX NOT RESPONDING, SIR!
GIVE US SUPPORT-ING FIRE! NOW, DAMN IT, NOW!
SPANGG
KPWNG
GHOOM
NO EFFECT, SIR!
DAMN IT--!
GUH GRAND-PA. ?
WH... WHAT DID I JUST DO?
DON'T WORRY, MY BOY. JUST OVERDID THINGS A BIT.

BUT...THEY'RE *DEAD!* THEY GOTTA BE DEAD! NOT JUST THE HELICOPTER... ALL THOSE TANKS!

WHROOM

TOUGH *SHIT.* THAT WAS AN *ACCIDENT,* HOICHI.

WHY'D YOU MAKE ME USE THOSE HUGE ***CANNONS?*** *I MEAN,* ***EIGHTY-EIGHT*** *FRICKIN'* ***MILLI-METERS!!***

AH. WOULD YOU HAVE PREFERRED TO USE THE ***LEFT*** *HAND'S* ***460mm*** *CHAIN GUN, THEN...?*

WHAT KIND OF GODDAMNED *HERO* AM I SUPPOSED TO BE, HUH?!

WHRAM

THAT ALL DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU DO ***NEXT,*** *HOICHI.*

? WHAT I DO *NEXT* ...?

KSHNKK

WHOA!

HUH ...?

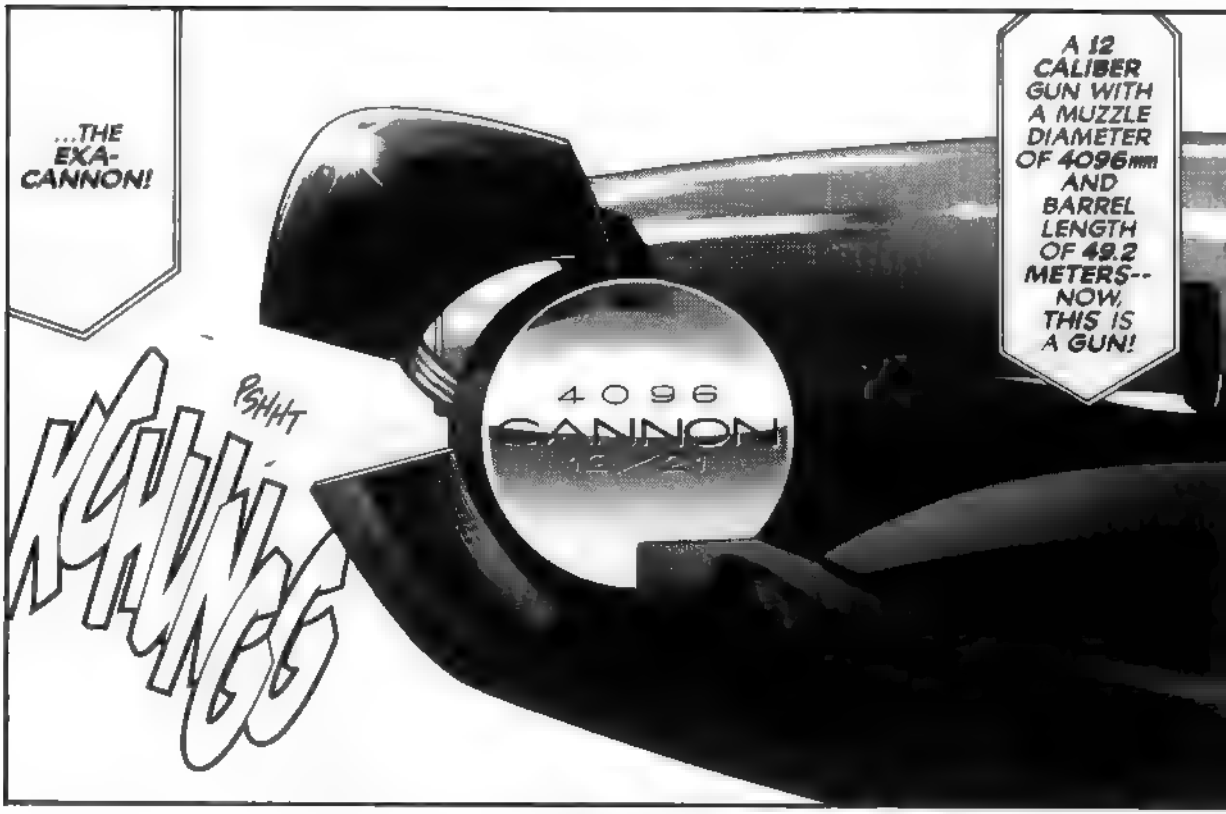
HAH?

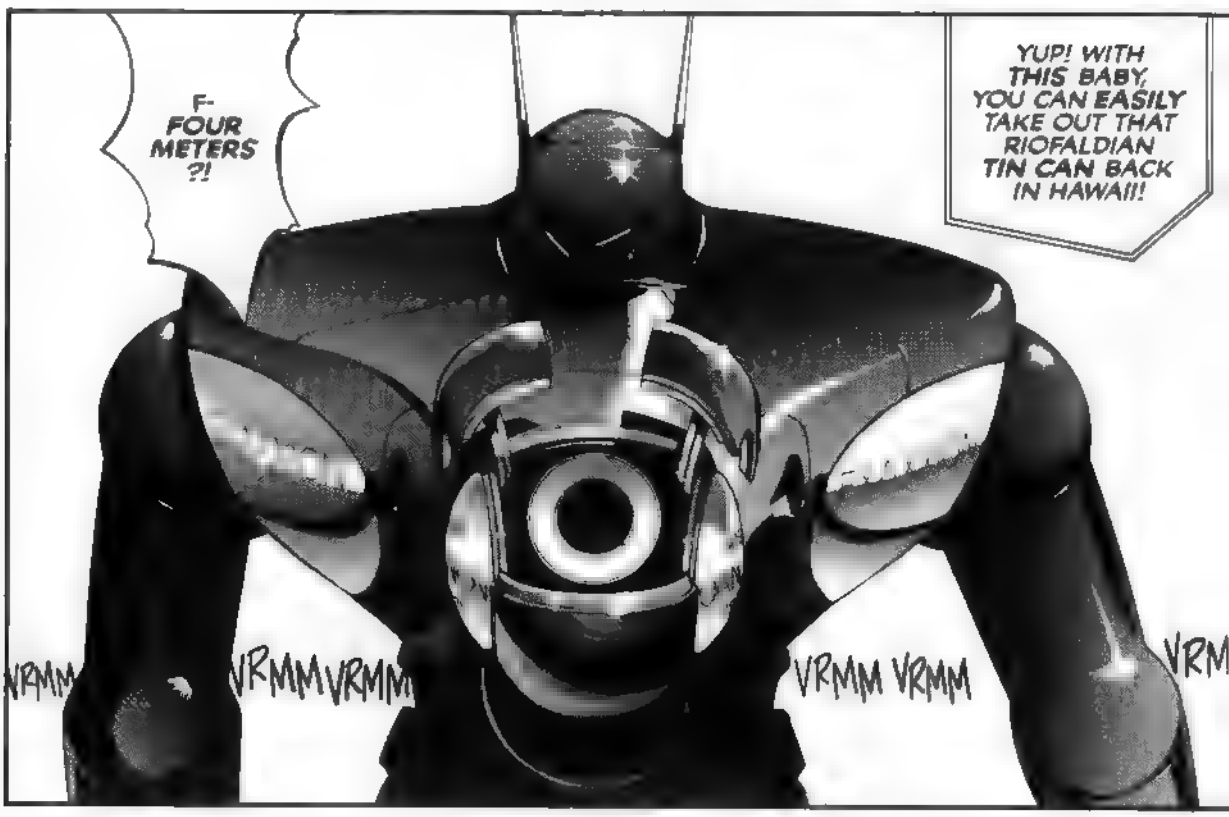
G-GRANDPA... WHAT IS *THIS?*

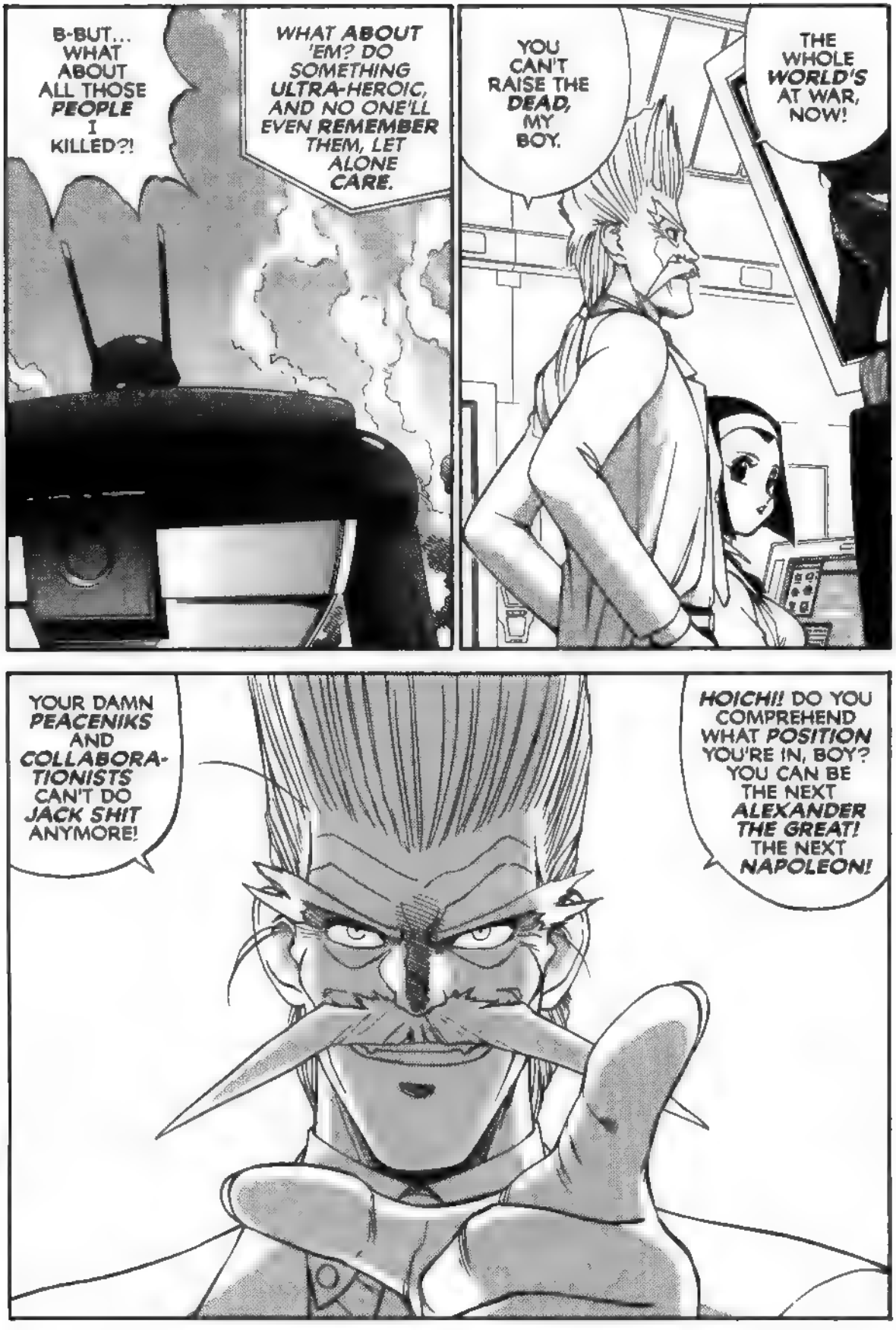
PSHHT

4096 CANNON

HOICHI, MY LAD--TAKE A LOOK AT THE ***TRIGGER*** *FOR THE BIGGEST AND* ***BADDEST*** *OF EXAXXION'S GUNS...*


...THE EXA-CANNON!
A 12 CALIBER GUN WITH A MUZZLE DIAMETER OF 4096mm AND BARREL LENGTH OF 49.2 METERS-- NOW, THIS IS A GUN!
PSHHT
KKUUNGG
4096
CANNON


F- FOUR METERS ?!
YUP! WITH THIS BABY, YOU CAN EASILY TAKE OUT THAT RIOFALDIAN TIN CAN BACK IN HAWAII!
VRMM
VRMM VRMM
VRMM VRMM
VRM


B-BUT... WHAT ABOUT ALL THOSE PEOPLE I KILLED?!
WHAT ABOUT 'EM? DO SOMETHING ULTRA-HEROIC, AND NO ONE'LL EVEN REMEMBER THEM, LET ALONE CARE.
YOU CAN'T RAISE THE DEAD, MY BOY.
THE WHOLE WORLD'S AT WAR, NOW!
YOUR DAMN PEACENIKS AND COLLABORA-TIONISTS CAN'T DO JACK SHIT ANYMORE!
HOICHI! DO YOU COMPREHEND WHAT POSITION YOU'RE IN, BOY? YOU CAN BE THE NEXT ALEXANDER THE GREAT! THE NEXT NAPOLEON!

I'VE GIVEN YOU THE POWER TO *RESHAPE* THE WHOLE DAMNED *WORLD*, UNDER-STAND?
SO...DO YOU WANT TO *GIVE UP*, HOICHI? RUN AWAY, AND BE *HUNTED DOWN* LIKE A COMMON CRIMINAL? TURN EXAXXION OVER TO THE RIOFALDIANS, SO THEY CAN TRULY GRIND US UNDER THEIR HEELS, ONCE AND FOR ALL?
OR DO YOU PLAN TO *HIDE* IN EXAXXION'S COCKPIT UNTIL YOU *STARVE*, MAYBE ...?
GRANDPA... WHEN THIS FOUR *THOUSAND* MILLIMETER CANNON *FIRES*...
...IT'S GOTTA MAKE ONE FRICKIN' *HUGE* SHOCK-WAVE...! HOW MANY *MORE* OF *OUR* PEOPLE AM I GONNA KILL?!
4096
CANNON
PSHAW, BOY! IT'LL KNOCK DOWN THE HELICOPTERS, THAT'S ALL.
CAN YOU COMPARE SNUFFING A FEW *SOLDIERS* WITH SAVING *BILLIONS* OF LIVES FROM *PLANETARY HOLOCAUST?!*
ISAKA IS NOW RECEIVING THE TARGETING DATA FOR THE RIOFALDIAN'S ROBOT, BACK AT THE SPACE ELEVATOR'S BASE.
NOW, WHEN THE EXA-CANNON IS LOCKED ON TO THE TARGET, THE GRIP LIGHT GLOWS BRIGHT GREEN...AND THAT'S YOUR CUE TO FIRE, LADDIE!
THAT'S YOUR CUE TO BE A HERO!
CANNON

TO BE CONTINUED IN *EXAXXION STAGE 2...!*

CANNON GOD EXAXXION: STAGE 1

砲神エグザクソン

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